

TO: City of Nedlands

Dear Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive Officer,

We write as concerned residents regarding the Graylands Campus Project and the proposed expansion of forensic mental health services at the Graylands site in Mount Claremont.

For many years, the public direction for Graylands was understood to be decommissioning, divestment and replacement of an outdated institutional facility. The current proposal appears to represent a major shift from that direction.

Publicly available information now indicates that Graylands is being progressed as a significant forensic mental health campus. The latest State Government material describes the current project as delivering 32 new sub-acute male forensic mental health beds, an eight-bed child and adolescent forensic mental health unit, and an Integrated Patient Services and Rehabilitation Centre. It also confirms that ADCO has been engaged through an Early Contractor Involvement process to commence design for the Graylands Campus Project.

Earlier public material referred to Stage 1 as involving 53 new forensic mental health beds, including five beds for a child and adolescent unit. Infrastructure WA material also referred to a broader proposal involving 136 forensic mental health beds at Graylands. The apparent change in the publicly stated scope, and the relationship between the current 40-bed project, the earlier 53-bed announcement and the broader 136-bed proposal has not been clearly explained.

This is not a minor hospital refurbishment. It is a significant change in the future use, scale, character and risk profile of the Graylands site. It affects Mount Claremont residents, nearby schools, families, local roads, heritage buildings, environmental values, community uses and the long-term use of a major public landholding within the City of Nedlands.

Residents are only now becoming aware of the scale and nature of the proposal. There is no record of meaningful consultation with the Mount Claremont community, nearby schools, school boards, P&Cs, residents or affected local users before the project advanced to design and contractor engagement to commence site works.

We have also become aware that an EPBC referral occurred in 2025, which was not widely communicated for public comments. The referral material states that consultation occurred with the City of Nedlands to advise it of the project and seek feedback, with no specific commentary received to date. That is concerning. Notification to the City, with no specific comment received, should not be treated as a proxy for meaningful community consultation.

We ask the Council to clarify:

1. What information was provided to the Council about the Graylands Campus Project.
2. When that information was provided.
3. Who within the Council received it.
4. Whether elected members were briefed.
5. Whether the matter was considered at any council briefing, committee meeting or public council meeting.
6. Whether the Council provided any formal or informal response.

7. If no specific commentary was provided, why not.
8. Whether the Council was advised that its lack of comment may later be recorded as consultation.
9. Whether the Council was asked to consult residents or school communities.
10. Whether any development application, public works referral, WAPC referral, heritage material, traffic assessment, environmental material or other planning document has been received by the Council.

The community has not been provided with the full business case, site-selection analysis, alternative-sites analysis, current masterplan, safety and security model, traffic assessment, emergency management plan, school-interface assessment, heritage impact statement, environmental assessment, or modelling of how the Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) reforms may affect patient numbers, profile, management, leave arrangements and community interface at this site.

The central issue is whether the decision to concentrate a major forensic mental health campus at Graylands has been transparently explained, properly justified, and supported by adequate safety, planning, heritage, environmental and community-impact assessment, particularly given the long-standing public understanding that Graylands was to be decommissioned, divested and replaced rather than expanded in this form.

We ask the City of Nedlands to:

1. Request full disclosure from the State Government of all documents provided to, or received from, the Council regarding the Graylands Campus Project.
2. Publish all non-confidential documents received by the Council on this matter.
3. Confirm whether the Council considers the consultation to date adequate.
4. Write to the relevant Ministers seeking a pause on irreversible works until genuine community consultation has occurred.
5. Request a public briefing from the State Government for Mount Claremont residents and nearby school communities.
6. Require the State Government to explain the planning pathway being used, including whether any development application, WAPC process or public works process will allow public comment.
7. Request release of the current masterplan and all stages proposed for the site, not only Stage 1.
8. Request release of the safety, security, patient movement, traffic, emergency management and school-interface assessments.
9. Request release of the heritage impact assessment, proposed demolition schedule, tree-removal schedule and Heritage Council advice.
10. Request release of the environmental material relied upon in the EPBC referral, including tree-clearing and black cockatoo habitat assessments.
11. Seek a formal council report on the project, including planning, traffic, heritage, environmental, community safety and school-interface implications.
12. Consider a council motion opposing any reliance on Council notification as a substitute for direct community consultation.

The City of Nedlands should not be placed in the position of being treated as the community's proxy where the community itself has not been meaningfully informed or consulted.

We request that this matter be placed before elected members and that residents be advised what role the Council has had to date, what information it has received, and what action it will now take to protect transparency, local amenity, heritage values, school-community interests and proper planning.

We have also written to the relevant State Ministers and the local Member for Nedlands, Mr Jonathan Huston MLA, given the State project responsibilities and local community impacts involved.

Yours sincerely,

Mount Claremont Community Network Group

Email - MtClaremontCommunity@gmail.com