

Blue Gum High Forest

The NSW Government is investing \$479 million in the redevelopment of Ryde Hospital to meet the future health needs of the growing community.

The redevelopment will deliver a new and expanded emergency department and intensive care unit, new theatres, new purpose-built ambulatory care centre, new paediatric short stay unit, more adult overnight inpatient beds and expanded medical imaging.

What is the Blue Gum High Forest?

The Ryde Blue Gum High Forest is in the southern section of the Ryde Hospital site making up 3.8 ha of the total 7.7 ha of hospital land.

It is a tall, open forest with predominantly Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*) and Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) species. It is also known to contain the Greyheaded Flying Fox and is assumed to be home to the protected Powerful Owl.

The forest is classified as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

How will the health of the forest be maintained?

The NSW Government has committed to the ongoing management and preservation of the forest with the Northern Sydney Local Health District responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the forest in the long term.

Initially forest regenerative work will include the removal of weeds such as Lantana, a non-native and toxic plant that has spread throughout the forest. Removing the Lantana will:

- improve the overall health of the forest's ecosystem
- provide habitat for native wildlife
- maintain biodiversity, and
- preserve the unique and valuable ecological community.

Will the redevelopment impact the forest?

No. The Blue Gum High Forest will be retained. The careful design of the new hospital allows for views of the forest from inpatient bedrooms to be maximised.

The redevelopment will avoid impacts on the forest and related biodiversity, preserving this unique ecological community for future generations to enjoy.



How can I find out more?

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