

Wairarapa Hospital Visit 1 October 2025

Due to MO:	30 September 2025	Reference	HNZ00099844
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Kieran McCann, Group Director Operations Wairarapa		
Copy to:	N/a		
Security level:	In Confidence	Priority	Urgent
Consulted:	N/a		
Proactive Release:	This title is proposed by Health NZ for proactive release		

Contact for phone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Kieran McCann	Group Director Operations Wairarapa		x
Chris Lowry	Executive Regional Director Central		

Attachments

Appendix 1: Run sheet and campus map

About the event

Purpose	You are visiting Masterton Hospital for a short visit to meet some of the team.
Date	Wednesday 1 October 2025
Time	11.30am – 12.00pm
Venue	Masterton Hospital
Expected attendees	N/a
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora representatives	Kieran McCann, Group Director Operations Wairarapa Belinda Bennet, GM Acute Services Norman Gray, Head of Department, ED
Media	No media are expected
Talking points	Background below.

Background

1. You have asked for some information about Masterton hospital prior to a short visit.
2. This briefing provides a summary of recent challenges faced by the hospital and topics you may wish to discuss with the local team.

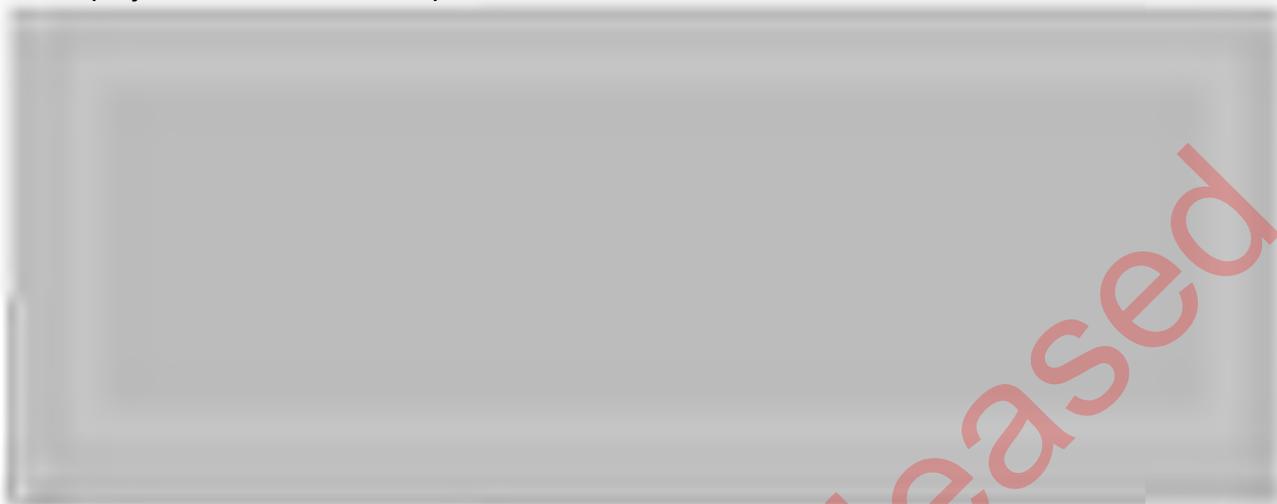
Wairarapa Region

3. Health New Zealand provides a full range of secondary and tertiary health services to the 52,000 people in Wairarapa via a mix of local delivery supported by regionally provided outreach, diagnostic and tertiary services.
4. The local population receive some of the best intervention rates in New Zealand for a range of surgical and medical services.
5. Health NZ also supports a special arrangement where the private Selina Sutherland Hospital is embedded in the public facility, leasing theatres, a co-joined ward and the resources to run them at Masterton Hospital.
6. The Central Region is working hard to sustain Wairarapa, noting it is the second smallest district in New Zealand. In addition to clinical recruitment, sub regional operating models have orthopaedic, ENT and urology clinicians from surrounding districts providing both in reach services and telehealth support.

7.

Infrastructure Investment

8. There has been some recent discussion about projects in the Wairarapa to support the current infrastructure and delivery of clinical services. These include an endoscopy project and CT scanner replacement.



12. The CT scanner replacement project of \$2.5 million is progressing under Health NZ delegations. (HNZ00098100 refers).

13. Key investment projects for Wairarapa are detailed below:



Proposal for private hospital – Selina Sutherland

14. A consortium comprising existing Kaweka and Selina shareholders and new investors (including local clinicians) have formed Matua Masterton Development Ltd to build a new private hospital beside Masterton Hospital. They notified us on 24 June 2025 of their initial resource consent approval and are planning to be operational in 2027.
15. The new hospital is proposed to comprise 10 post operative beds, two theatres and a diagnostic suite including an MRI. They will also vacate the Masterton Hospital site, enabling their leased capacity to also become fully available for public use.
16. Wairarapa purchases no surgical volumes from Selina Sutherland and is currently offering its own underutilised theatre capacity to other Central Region districts.

Seismic issue

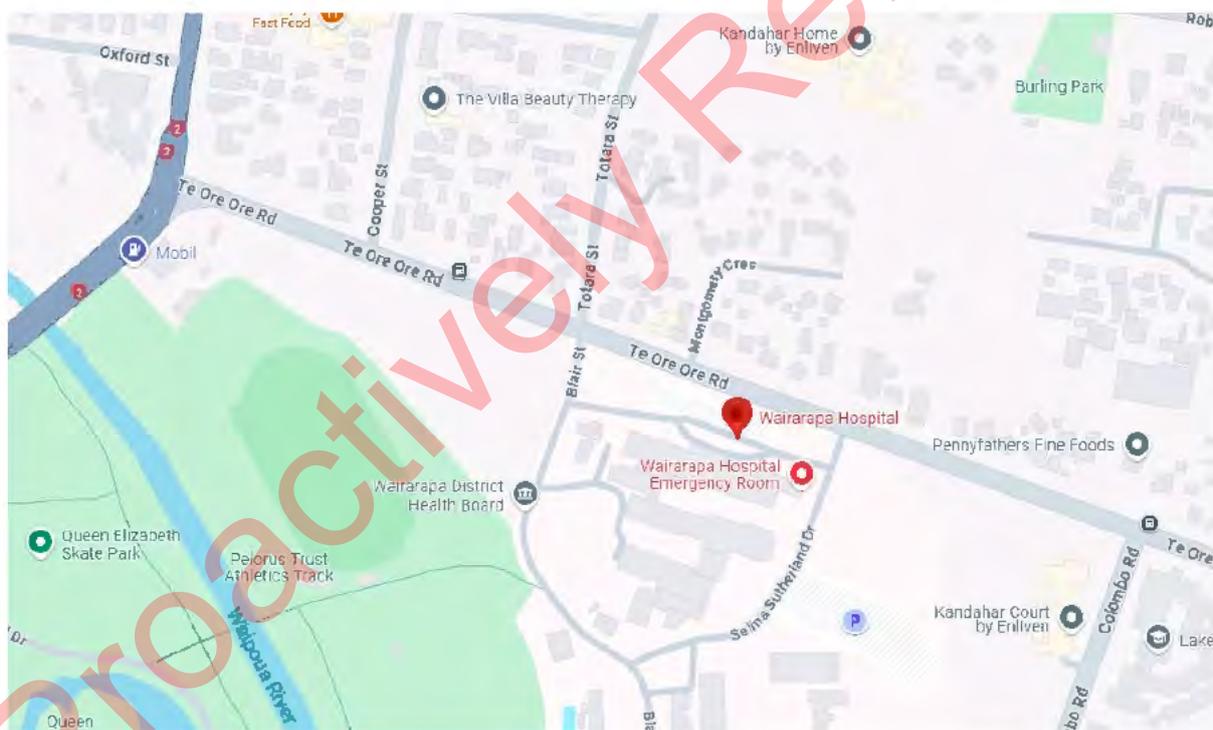
Orthopaedics

19. There has been public interest in long wait times for orthopaedic surgery in Wairarapa. Orthopaedic surgeons based in Wellington deliver orthopaedic services in Wairarapa, a model that's been in place for years. Health NZ recently implemented a plan to reduce orthopaedic wait times in the Wairarapa with a view to achieving the FSA and Elective Health Target milestones, including through:
 - Adding additional sessions to their surgery lists,
 - Outsourcing,
 - Recruiting additional surgeon FTE (both permanent and locum).
 - Implementation of an MSK Physio Role
20. Since the implementation of the plan, waiting times for surgery have improved significantly and are now delivering well above the milestone target for surgery.

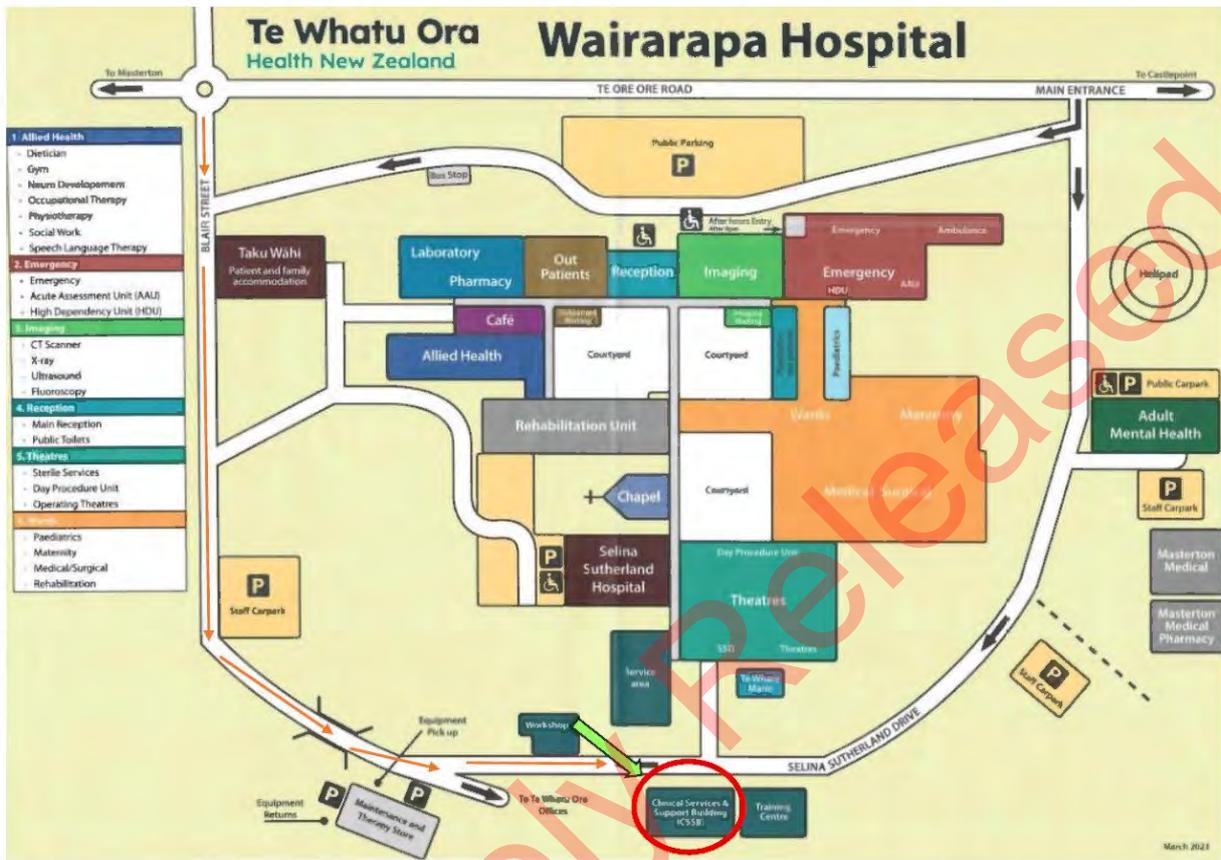
Appendix 1: Runsheet and location map

Time	Details	Minister's Office notes
11.30am	Minister to arrive at Masterton Hospital (map and parking detailed below)	
11.35am	Welcome from GDO Wairarapa and introduction to key staff	
11.40am	Tour of the Emergency Department and discussion with team	
12.00pm	Minister to depart	

A car park will be available outside Wairarapa Hospital's Corporate Support and Services Block, entrance off Blair Street. Go through the gates and stay on the road as it veers right. The Corporate Support and Services Block will be on your right.



Wairarapa Hospital Campus Map



Proactive