Event Briefing

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Opening of upgraded Boulcott Hospital

Due to MO:	29 July 2025	**Reference**	**HNZ00093576**
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Robyn Shearer, Deputy Chief Executive, Te Ikaroa I Central Region		
Copy to:	Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure; MP for Hutt South		
Security level:	**In Confidence**	**Priority**	Routine
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
Robyn Shearer	Deputy Chief Executive - Te Ikaroa I Central Region	[redacted]	x
Jamie Duncan	Group Director Operations, Capital Coast Hutt Valley district		

Attachments

Appendix 1: Runsheet and location map

Appendix 2: Biographies

[redacted]

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About the event

Purpose	You are attending the opening of the upgraded Boulcott Hospital, where you and Minister Bishop will be giving short speeches and you will cut the ribbon.
Date	Monday 4 August
Time	5:30 – 6:45pm
Venue	Boulcott Hospital, 666 High Street, Lower Hutt
Expected attendees	Hon Chris Bishop Name, Minister for Infrastructure and MP for Hutt South Sue Suckling, Chairperson, Boulcott Hospital Graham Dyer, Chief Executive, Boulcott Hospital *Main event contacts:* Jo Coughlan, Managing Director, Silvereye – [redacted] Rebecca Needham – Silvereye events management – [redacted] *Note, biographies are attached as Appendix 2*
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora representatives	Robyn Shearer, Deputy Chief Executive - Te Ikaroa I Central Region
Media	Media is being arranged by Silvereye on behalf of Boulcott Hospital
[redacted]	

Background

Boulcott Hospital

1. Boulcott Hospital is a private surgical hospital based in Lower Hutt. Established in 1984, and located next door to Hutt Hospital, around 40 specialists operate across a range of specialties, including orthopaedics, plastic and reconstructive surgery, ophthalmology (eyes), gynaecology, general surgery, ear nose and throat (ENT), urology, vascular surgery, fertility services, oral and maxillofacial, rheumatology and cardiology.
2. Boulcott Hospital has been operated by Wellington-based investment group Rangatira since 2022, before which it was operated by the Australian group Healthe Care1. Rangatira holds a 69% ownership share, with the hospital's practicing surgeons holding the bulk of the remaining ownership.

[1] "Healthe Care" is the company name's correct spelling.

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The redevelopment

3. The upgrade and expansion just completed, after a 24-month build costing $25 million, will bring into operation a new theatre wing, as well as upgrading existing facilities.

4. The hospital will now have five operating theatres (previously three), 28 overnight beds, and increased capacity of 4,500 procedures per year (up from 3,000). The new theatres integrate leading digital technology, which will enable more complex surgical procedures.

Relationship with Health New Zealand

5. Health NZ has, and will continue to, outsource surgical procedures to Boulcott Hospital according to capacity and local demand. With Boulcott Hospital's increased theatre capacity and location next to Hutt Hospital, theatre leasing (as opposed to outsourcing of procedures) is a further option to reduce elective waiting times[2].

6. Note 150 procedures were outsourced in financial year 2024/25, and Boulcott Hospital's increased capacity will see further outsourcing volumes as the Central Region works hard to reduce waiting times.

7. The current *Statement of Work* for 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026 is for 157 Health NZ-funded procedures, of which 50 are general surgery, 85 orthopaedic and 22 plastics/reconstruction.

Health NZ Infrastructure Developments

8. A number of significant health infrastructure projects have recently been completed or are underway in the Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley District (CCHV), which serves a population of almost 500,000 across the communities of Kapiti, Porirua, Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, and Wellington.

9. In March 2025, you opened the first High Dependency Unit at Wellington Regional Hospital. The $17.3 million unit has 12 beds and the latest critical care equipment, and will relieve pressure from and on the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the emergency department (ED), with the potential to shorten stays in ED.

10. In July, construction started on a new adult acute mental health facility at the Lower Hutt Hospital campus. The $88 million Sir Mark Dunajtschik Mental Health Centre, which is expected to open n 2027, will provide 34 new adult acute inpatient beds to support patients and their whānau facing mental health challenges.

11. As part of Budget 2025, you announced funding for the redevelopment of Wellington Regional Hospital's ED and acute services. This is part of the first stage in an extensive redevelopment of the hospital campus over the next 10 years. The first stage of development includes projects to enhance site resilience and expand capacity, and will

[2] Such leasing would typically follow the so-called 'wet-lease' model, whereby Boulcott Hospital's theatre and consumables (and often the anaesthetist) are used but Health NZ-employed medical staff carry out the procedure.

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relocate and expand the ED and Medical and the Surgical Assessment and Planning Units, expand the ICU, and deliver an additional 56 inpatient beds across the site. The relocation of ambulatory services will also provide an additional 36 consult and treatment spaces.

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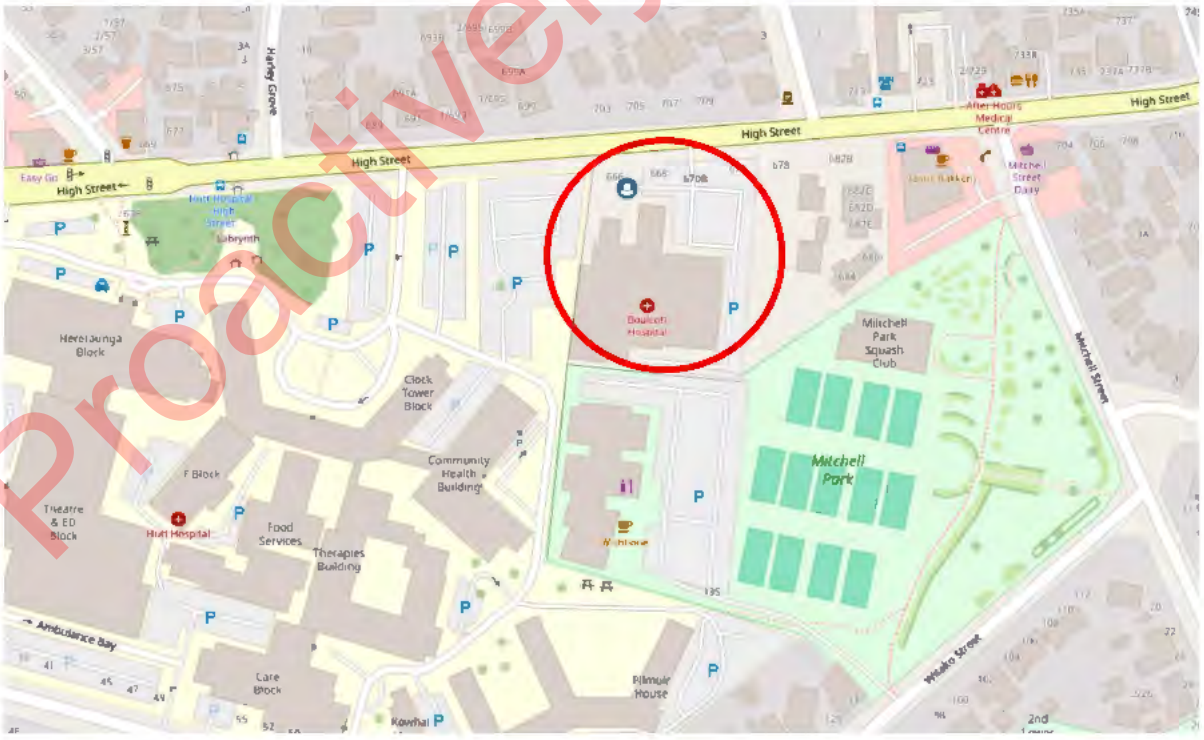
Appendix 1: Runsheet and location map

Time	Details	Notes for Minister's Office
5:15pm	Guest arrivals & refreshments	Informal mingling and opportunity for Ministers to be briefly introduced to special guests
5:30pm	Small group including Ministers proceed to new theatres for blessing	Will include photographer and videographer
5:40pm	Welcome from Boulcott CE Graham Dyer	
5:45pm	Opening remarks from Boulcott Chair Sue Suckling	Further welcomes and brief context
5:50pm	Ministerial address from Hon Simeon Brown	3-5 minutes requested
5:55pm	Remarks from MP for Hutt South, Hon Chris Bishop	3-5 mins; Minister has been asked for local context/content
6:00pm	Ribbon cutting and plaque reveal, including photo op – Dyer, Suckling, Brown and Bishop	
6:05pm	Group photo of Ministers, VIPs, hospital leadership, other stakeholders	
6:10pm	Group tour of new surgical wing (small group rotations; Ministers in first group)	
6:15pm	Refreshments and networking (light catering)	
6:30pm	Event ends; transition to dinner for those attending	Attendees to self-drive to dinner venue (Boulcott Farm).

Entrance to Boulcott Hospital is at 670/670b High Street on map below

After leaving High Street, Follow signs to Boulcott Hospital Main Entrance to your right (not the Boulcott Hospital Specialist Centre); there will be a designated carpark close to the hospital's main entrance



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Appendix 2: Selected biographies

Sue Suckling, OBE – Chair, Boulcott Hospital

Suzanne Suckling has had a career in food technology, business and commercial directorship, and has been Chair of Boulcott Hospital since March 2022.

Raised in Hamilton, and studied biotechnology at Massey University in Palmerston North before lecturing at Lincoln University for two years. Following this she worked as a food technologist in the meat industry, rising to chief executive at Pacific Foods. Following this she worked in merchant banking and was later appointed to the Trade Development Board.

Ms Suckling has held numerous and varied governance roles, including as chair of ECL Group, Jacobsen Pacific, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, Jade Software, Lincoln Agritech Hub, the Insurance & Financial Services Ombudsman Scheme Commission, and founding chair of Callaghan Innovation.

Recognition of Ms Suckling includes: inaugural NZ Business Woman of the Year in 1985 at the age of 27; appointment as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1996 for services to business management; Companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2011; and an honorary doctorate in science from Lincoln University in 2015.

Graham Dyer – Chief Executive, Boulcott Hospital

Graham Dyer became chief executive of Boulcott Hospital in late 2024, following 25 years in the health sector, including as chief executive of the Hutt Valley and Wairarapa District Health Boards between 2010 and 2015. He has held executive roles across operational management, finance, ICT, and planning and funding, including in the establishment of a DHB funding function when the DHBs were created in 2001.

Mr Dyer led the Provider Services team at ACC with responsibility for commissioning over $3 billion of services. Following this he undertook a Doctorate in Value Based Commissioning of Health Services and then consultancy work, with clients including the Ministry of Health, Office of the Auditor General, and Southern Cross Insurance.

During his five years at Hutt Valley DHB (three of which he was also chief executive of Wairarapa DHB), Mr Dyer led the Employment Relationship Strategy Group for the 20 DHBs and had a leadership role in major rebuilds at Tauranga and Hutt Valley hospitals.

Mr Dyer has held a range of company directorships and board roles, most recently as the CEO representative on the Health Workforce New Zealand board. He has a Social Science degree from Waikato University and an MBA from Massey University.

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