



# Transcript: Online Community Information Session

Centre for National Resilience Perth

30 November 2021

**Hew:** I think we have a good number of people here who have joined the meeting and I know there will be a few more as we go, so I think we'll get started so we can get you out of here on time this evening. Good evening and welcome to this information session on the Centre for National Resilience Perth.

My name is Hugh Atkin, I'm an Assistant Secretary from the Commonwealth Department of Finance in the Quarantine Infrastructure Delivery team.

We've allowed an hour for this session this evening to firstly hear from our presenters and then to answer questions that you have submitted earlier.

I'm joined this evening by number of my colleagues from the Australian Government and the Western Australian Government who are going to talk to you about the Centre for National Resilience Perth.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of Bullsbrook, the Wadjuck people, and pay my respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.

And I know we have people here with us from a number of different locations. We also have colleagues calling in from Canberra and other locations, and I pay my respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

Thank you to everyone who's registered for this event and thank you for dialling in.

We're recording the session and will make this video and a transcript available on the Department of Finance website in the coming days so that anyone who can't be with us this evening can watch. A link to the Department of Finance website was also included on the invitation to this event.

In the current environment an online session was the best way that we could make sure that we have all our speakers available to be here to talk with you this evening and answer your questions.

So thank you for all your questions. We have tailored the presentations to address many of these as we go. So while you may not see your specific question identified, you will hear the detail of answers as the speakers take you through their presentations as an overview.

Will share information about the Centre's location and why it is being built. We will also take you through the design and construction process and how construction will be managed for the surrounding community.

We'll then hear about the operation of the Centre and how infection prevention control measures and the broader workforce will be managed.

As I mentioned, at the end of the session we will go through the questions you submitted when you registered to attend this evening.

We have a number of representatives to talk with you from the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments as well as the Commonwealth managing contractor for construction of the Centre, Multiplex.

First, I'll introduce Kylie Dennis, who's the project director from the Commonwealth Department of Finance. Kylie has significant experience in managing large construction projects with the Commonwealth.

We also have Katie Bryson who's the project lead for the Western Australian Government and Dr Clare Huppertz, Deputy Chief Health Officer from the Western Australian Department of Health is also with us this evening, and at the end of the session we will also have Kam Hishmeh, the project lead from Multiplex, with us to talk through some of the specific details you've asked about construction.

So, welcome to Kylie, Katie, Clare and Kam this evening.

Firstly, I'll give you an initial overview of the project and the reasons behind the construction of the Centre, the process we went through initially to identify the location, and then we'll move into the construction and operation.

As flagged in the invite for this session, we do understand that people in Bullsbrook have a strong interest in learning more about the new water infrastructure for residents that was recently announced by the Australian Government and that the Department of Defence is progressing. The Department of Defence will hold a drop in session for the community on the 4th of December.

If you need more details about that session, there is a phone number and email address on screen now for you to get in touch with the Department of Defence.

[bullsbrook.defence@ghd.com or phone 1800 987 614]

The Australian Government is working in partnership with the Western Australian Government to deliver the Centre for National Resilience Perth. This will be a purpose built quarantine facility. The two governments signed a memorandum of understanding on 16th of August this year for the delivery of the Centre. The Australian government will build the Centre and retain ownership of it.

That build is being managed by the Commonwealth Department of Finance. It is expected that construction of 500 places will be complete by the end of March 2022.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Western Australian Government will be responsible for the Centre's operation and running as a quarantine facility.

To determine the best place for the Centre to be built, there were a number of factors that needed to be considered. The Australian Government developed key assessment criteria so that any site proposed for a purpose built quarantine facility had to meet a number of important requirements.

Any site needed to be close to a hospital, and for this site the Royal Perth Hospital is approximately 35 kilometres away.

And the site also needed to be close to an airport that had international flights, and in this case the Perth airport is around 30 kilometres away.

The location also had to be able to maintain a sufficient workforce, particularly health workforce, without significantly impacting the existing COVID-19 response efforts. We also needed to have a level of existing infrastructure on site.

So having Commonwealth land, and in this case it was land occupied by Defence, meant that we could quickly establish a site.

We looked state-wide at all the possible locations where we could establish a quarantine Centre.

As you might be aware, we considered a number of sites including Perth and Jandakot airports, but determined that Bullsbrook gave the best opportunity to build the Centre as quickly as possible, before Bullsbrook was confirmed as the preferred site.

The Commonwealth undertook an independent feasibility study into the Bullsbrook Training area to consider if it was suitable and where onsite was the best place for the Centre.

The feasibility study covered a range of important issues including planning, environmental, cultural, heritage, traffic management, waste management, and contamination.

The study's findings confirmed that the site was safe and suitable for the purpose built quarantine Centre.

The chosen site has fewer constraints than other parcels of land held by Defence in Bullsbrook, and the site has fewer environmental constraints and does not impact the access of other properties or infrastructure in the area.

We are aware that this is a community with a number of residents who have been here for many years.

We appreciate that there has been some concern that we haven't been able to reach out sooner. This project has come together very quickly and there has been a need to move things along so that we can have the Centre up and running as soon as possible to assist in the response to COVID-19.

We wanted to be in a position where we had confirmed details that we could share with you and we're now at a point where we're able to hold this session because we can talk with greater clarity and precision on what's going to happen and give confidence to neighbouring residents.

As you'll hear shortly, this is a significant build that we're working to complete in a very short period of time. We've embarked on a purpose-built facility, of very high quality and with a very specific design, to ensure that the Centre complies with stringent infection prevention and control measures.

This Centre will be significantly more enhanced from this perspective than a typical mining camp facility.

Now I'd like to hand over to Kylie, who will be able to talk to you in more detail on the design and construction of the Centre.

**Kylie:** Thanks very much Hew. Good evening everyone, thanks for being here tonight, I'm Kylie from the Commonwealth Department of Finance and I'm the project delivery lead.

And as you heard Hew say earlier, the Commonwealth government is taking the lead on the design and construction of the Centre for National Resilience in Perth.

Once the build is completed, the Western Australian Government will manage the quarantine centre for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commonwealth government will own the Centre and will look at options for use when the Centre is no longer needed for their COVID response. And I'll talk a little bit more on that later.

Multiplex has been appointed as the managing contractor for this build and, as you may be aware, they are a tier one global construction company with significant experience delivering large scale projects.

Hew mentioned we have Kam from Multiplex with us tonight, and Kam is our onsite construction manager and will be able to talk in more detail to the questions that you've sent through around the construction aspects.

The Commonwealth has a strong interest in the design principles for the Centre and we are working closely with the Western Australian Government on the Centre's design.

This evening I'll talk about the construction and the delivery of the Centre and I'll take you through some of the work that we've been busy doing.

As you can appreciate, there is a comprehensive approval process that we need to go through before we can begin any construction.

This is a Commonwealth build on Commonwealth land and we have a number of procedures and guidelines and initial assessments that we need to follow and carry out.

We have considered cultural heritage requirements for this site, and an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage survey was completed as part of the site identification process. We look forward to working to continuing to work with the traditional owners on a range of considerations including ensuring we have appropriate native vegetation at the Centre.

Geotechnical contamination and environmental studies have also been completed.

As Hew mentioned, prior to selecting the site at Bullsbrook an independent feasibility study from engineering and design firm AECOM was undertaken, finding that the site was safe and suitable for the Centre.

The site does not support any flora or fauna species that are listed as threatened under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act or are listed as priority by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction.

However, the site is located close to waterways that have been rehabilitated by Landcare Conservation Volunteers. The final design of this Centre in terms of building placement was modified to achieve the requested 100 metre setback from the two creeks that traverse the site.

In assessing the site AECOM also had access to previous environmental studies produced

for the Department of Defence, including recent environmental investigations by an independent expert.

The project team has undertaken detailed site investigations including environmental, surface water flow and IT infrastructure, including the water, power and sewage, etc.

The project will be compliant with all applicable regulatory requirements and relevant Australian standards.

I would like to reassure the community that the Centre is not being built on a contaminated site at Bullsbrook. The Centre site is approximately 3 kilometres from the operational Pearce RAAF base.

I can confirm that the Centre's wastewater will be managed through an onsite treatment process, and I know that for local residents, water issues are front of mind and at this stage as we mentioned earlier tonight, the Department of Defence will hold a community session on 4 December.

As you can see, the design for the modules takes into account infection prevention and control guidelines.

The design for the modules include ventilation systems to ensure the rooms are each provided with a separate constant flow of fresh air. There is cabin style accommodation with entry and exit points from outdoor decks so the virus won't spread through shared corridors. Separate and secure blocks which will accommodate up to 250 residents or approximately 40 cabins, with onsite services including catering, laundry and administration to support the operations and limit the movement of goods and materials off the site.

We are moving very quickly to deliver the Centre. You may have seen that work has commenced onsite already ahead of the anticipated completion of 500 beds by the end of March next year. We are progressing well, with the managing contractor officially commencing work on site in early October and modular accommodation units ordered through a range of modular construction companies. Multiplex has temporary office space and is preparing an area to the west of the site for a trade car park and amenities blocks. Perimeter fencing is in place and bulk earthworks have commenced.

Recognising the evolving vaccination and quarantine environment, the Commonwealth government will review the capacity requirements for their Centre in early 2022 to determine if additional capacity is required.

The Centre is scalable and has been designed so that it could expand to 1000 beds at a later stage.

This project is a high priority for both the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments and we do have a tight timeline for the build. This will involve two shifts a day working on site, and this includes working over weekends and for most of the period over Christmas, excluding the public holidays. The busiest time on site will be from mid-January until the end of March next year.

Over the course of the build there will be plant and equipment on site, but the noise management assessment shows that there will be minimal noise impact for nearby residents.

In terms of the construction, a lot of work will be done off site as the buildings are modular construction and will be fabricated and brought on site already assembled.

This greatly reduces the civil works that we need to do on site and will help reduce the noise and onsite traffic. We will need to use oversize trucks to deliver those modular units onsite, but we don't anticipate there will be any significant impact on traffic for businesses or for surrounding residents.

In looking at traffic construction during the early works phase that we're in now, access in and out is via Neaves Road Della North Road and Gallagher Road.

We estimate that there will be around 20 to 30 car movements at shift changeover times and one truck every 15 minutes, so around 40 trucks per day.

During the earthworks and construction phases, access will change to one way flow with inbound traffic following the same Neaves Road, Della North Road and Gallagher Road route out. Outbound traffic will be via Gallagher Road, West Road and Neaves Road. There will be up to 400 car movements at shift changeovers during the peak of construction during the earthworks phase. We estimate there will be one truck every five minutes during each 10 hour shift, equating to 120 trucks per shift.

During the construction phase, we estimate there will be one truck every 10 minutes during each 10 hour shift, equating to 60 trucks per shift. Wherever possible, deliveries will be scheduled to ensure congestion on the roads is limited.

And I'd like to reassure local residents that we are aware of your concerns and we will be working to minimise construction and traffic impacts as much as possible, but we don't expect that there will be a significant impact.

One of the things that I really would like to emphasise is that from a design perspective, we are not building a prison. We are building an environment where when residents are admitted into the Centre, it's green, there's ventilation, there's balconies that give the residents the chance for fresh air.

While the Centre has all the necessary security elements, it is actually quite a green and sympathetic addition to the landscape. We also did a lot of work about design to make sure that what was being considered was the best possible mix of prevention and reducing the risk of virus transmission, but also the best for ensuring that residents feel safe and secure and have a positive experience.

Landscaping and urban design has been developed with the goal of maximising amenity for the residents. Courtyard environments provide sunlight access to the rooms and secured balconies breakdown the geometry of the Centre, creating visual interest through colour and texture while minimising maintenance and irrigation needs. The visual strategies aim to offset the sense of a secure facility through the foliage, the colour and the lighting.

There will be a mix of accommodation options available to suit singles, couples and families, and family rooms will accommodate up to six people in each room.

I'll now hand over to Katie.

**Katie:** Thanks Kylie, hi everyone. My name is Katie. I'm the project lead for the WA government. So as you've heard WA government will be responsible for the operation of the facility for the duration of the pandemic. So we're currently working through the operational readiness planning now and so at this stage I'll just provide some high level information today and then we'll come back with a bit more detail closer to completion of the facility. So just starting with policy settings.

Around quarantine, I'm sure you can appreciate responding to the pandemic that things can change very quickly as we've seen this weekend, so I just thought it might be best if I provide some links to information and then you can just keep an eye on things as they change as we move forward, but I'll just sort of explain this information that's up on your screen now. So all of this is on [wa.gov.au](http://wa.gov.au), but noting it can be challenging to navigate around government websites.

There's some specific areas that I've put links up for here, so the first link there is the current quarantine requirements [COVID-19 coronavirus: Travel to WA ([www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au))]. So this is what is required at the moment because I think there was some queries around length of quarantine and who would be required to quarantine. So right now international arrivals must complete 14 days of hotel quarantine upon arrival in WA at a government approved facility, and interstate arrivals can vary depending on where you're coming from.

And this changes quite frequently, so I'll just suggest if you want the current information that will be in that first link. You'll also be aware that there's a WA safe transition plan [COVID-19 coronavirus: WA's Safe Transition Plan ([www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au))], and there's information about that also now available on the website that is outlining the expected settings once we transition to easing border restrictions in WA. So there is information up there now and that will be getting added to and updated as we get closer to opening, but I've just put that for information at the moment.



The transition plan says that vaccinated travellers won't need to quarantine. However, unvaccinated international returning residents will be required to complete 14 days quarantine at a designated facility. So that's the current policy settings. But I'll just add you to check that website if you want to keep up to date with anything that's changing in that space.

I think there was also a query about authority to quarantine, so at the moment travellers are issued with a direction under the Emergency Management Act 2005. So again, there's a link there that's got all the information about all the directions under the Emergency Management Act there, if you wanted to look into detail at any of those [COVID-19 coronavirus: State of Emergency Declarations ([www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au))].

So now looking at operations, so we're not starting from a zero base here, we're going to be basing our operations on best practice and learnings from our own hotel quarantine and also operations of other facilities like Howard Springs and will also be working closely with our colleagues in Melbourne as they're developing their procedures for their Centre for National Resilience in Melbourne. So we have the benefit of a lot of good work that's being done here in WA now.

Managing hotel quarantine, but also the Melbourne project is slightly ahead of us, so we'll be able to adapt all of their processes and procedures and all the Howard Springs learnings and the hotel quarantine learnings to make sure that we're delivering the best service that we can in terms of size and configuration.

As Kylie explained, there's capacity for up to 500 guests at the accommodation and will be divided into 2 accommodation villages, each with 250 capacity and those will be a mixture of all different types of accommodation, so families of up to six people, and there will be single accommodation. There'll also be double accommodation and also disability access.

So there are no enclosed corridors and there are no lifts, so some of those things which are very problematic now in hotel quarantine, the design is much better in this facility. Each village of 250 guests will have a staff hub and that staff hub will coordinate the delivery of services to those guests so, the design has been very well thought through.

In terms of traffic movement, we'll know more about this once we get a bit closer to operation, but we know there will be bus movements. Obviously at the moment people entering hotel quarantine come by bus, and so we're anticipating that would continue, but we don't know flight schedules at this stage, but we'll give more information on that once we know.

Deliveries will be arriving for the kitchen and other consumables. There will be waste collected and there will obviously be truck movements associated with that and there will be staff vehicles during and they'll be heavy during shift changes. There will be staff on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but they won't be residing or living on the site. They will be in a shift to cover the sites during all those hours.

In terms of processes, once residents arrive they'll be driven inside the facility through a controlled entry point, and then they will enter. They'll get checked in through normal processes. They'll be directed to their rooms, and then once they've arrived and they've entered their room, that's where they will be staying for the duration of their quarantine period. Unless of course there's an emergency. But other than that, they won't be leaving the room.

They'll be permitted to step out on their balcony and we will potentially be giving them access to things like static exercise equipment if they wanted to do exercise, but they won't be permitted to leave their room or their balcony to do any exercise.

Departure processes: we're working through those at the moment and will come back with more information about that, but there's potential that people can be picked up from the facility when they've finished their quarantine period. Or we may also offer a service to drop people back to a central location. So we'll work through that and let you know.

In terms of safety and security there will be fencing. There will be cameras and there will be staff onsite to manage security. All of those elements will work together to manage security as a system on sites. There'll be controlled entry and controlled security.

Entry point for vehicles and pedestrian access into the facility: staff will only be allowed to enter the facility when they're rostered on, and their access around the facility will be controlled. We don't want people going into areas they don't need to be in, so we'll be able to monitor and control movement. There will be no visitors allowed inside the facility and all the deliveries will be to a logistics building which is located outside of the main accommodation area. So we don't want anyone entering into secure areas where they don't need to be.

Emergency Management: so we will have an Emergency Management plan for the site that will ensure that in the event of an emergency there can be a safe and orderly evacuation. The infrastructure is there for it, it's just we need to develop the procedures and protocols around that, and we'll come back with more information once we've developed that. But the facility has been designed so that emergency vehicles can get access. Ambulances and fire vehicles can enter and get around the site easily and there will be evacuation options as well.

So in terms of the infection, prevention and control, you'll hear this word used a lot. We're just trying to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus, and that's done with the designers, as Kylie explained, but also with the procedures and processes that we will have onsite. So the design has really taken the lessons from all the other facilities and made improvements on certain things.

And then those will be complemented by our procedural requirements. The chief health officer WA will be taking lessons from hotel quarantine and where things have worked well or not worked so well. We'll just be adapting for this new environment, which has been purpose designed. Part of the philosophy is that there are designated red zones and green zones, and there are very specific procedures for anyone who is entering a designated red zone,

and that's all designed around minimising risk of transmission. We're trying to keep our work areas as separate as we can to minimise interactions in high risk areas such as bathrooms or lunchrooms.

Also, in addition, we've got some processes where we want to minimise interaction between residents and staff as much as possible, so staff will be required to follow really strict procedures before they enter into a red zone, and that means they need to wear personal protective equipment or PPE, and that would range from masks, gloves, eye protection, aprons and gowns.

The PPE will be determined depending on what the role is that they're carrying out inside the area. There's special areas that have been designed for them to put on that PPE, so if you hear people referring to 'donning' PPE, that's putting on their PPE, and 'doffing' their PPE. There's very very strict procedures in place for that process to minimise risk. Staff will never enter a guest's room unless there's an emergency reason to do so, and any delivery for residents will be left on their balcony and anything that's being removed from the room like rubbish or laundry will be also left outside, so there's no need for staff to enter the guests' rooms.

In terms of cleaning: laundry and waste cleaners won't be entering the rooms to do cleaning during residents' stay, and there's a very strict protocol around cleaning. And if a guest does test positive during their stay there's an even more thorough process that's undertaken to clean the room. In those instances, all of the laundry will meet Australian standards, and there's really strict handling procedures around dirty laundry waste. Again, this will be carefully managed using the appropriate PPE to minimise risk.

I am speaking about vaccinations and all staff who work at the facility will be required to be fully vaccinated and that is currently the arrangement for hotel quarantine. Staff are not permitted to have secondary employment, so we'll be looking at that and there will likely be a similar situation in this new facility.

The other thing is there's ongoing training and continuous improvement and learning as we move forward through this journey, and when anything happens, it's reviewed and it's incorporated into training moving forward. So I think that's really important to note that we're always learning and always getting better at what we're doing, so I think that's really key.

So with that I will hand over to Doctor Clare Huppatz, who's Deputy Chief Health Officer at Department of Health, and Clare will just run through some of the testing and health care that will be provided onsite. Thanks, Clare.

**Clare:** Thanks, Katie, good evening everyone. So as Katie said, I'll just go through some of the other public health measures in addition to the infection prevention control measures.

The testing that's done for residents and staff: So firstly for this it's really important that staff are really trained well in infection prevention and control. Now currently in our hotel quarantine, the practices include mask use and protective eyewear, and these are

mandatory at all times where staff are transiting through or interacting with guests. So there are different requirements for PPE that we have guidelines for and these align with the tasks that are being performed.

Importantly, all staff are trained in PPE, how to put it on as Katie said, or take off their personal protective equipment and they are trained before they commence their duties. And then they're trained at several intervals while working in hotel quarantine, and that's anticipated to continue in this facility. So staff are encouraged to work with their PPE buddy, as well so that you've got them to watch you put your PPE on and take your PPE off as well.

Then there's frequent staff testing, so this is really important to minimise the risk of transmission if one staff member does get infected with COVID that they don't transmit to others, either staff within the facility or guests in the facility, or the community at large. So currently there are recommendations around staff testing and staff are tested via a nasopharyngeal swab – that's a nose swab every seven days and then they also do a collection of saliva, which is a mouth swab every day. So at the start of every shift our test is taken up and then every seven days a slightly different, more sensitive test is taken as well.

Then, in terms of if a staff member is unwell, the current procedure is that the staff member won't attend work if they are unwell. If they start feeling unwell at work, they're sent home from work wearing a mask and must inform their supervisor immediately and present for a COVID test. They have their COVID test and they go home right away, remain isolated until they get the test results back. If they're positive, obviously they isolate in accordance with our guidelines and they comply with any contact tracing requirements.

Then for the residents, so the residents have testing requirements as well. These may change over the next year, but at the moment the testing requirements follow a regime set out by the Chief Health Officer and currently they have a test soon after arrival, then repeated on day 5 and day 13 of their quarantine. If they do have symptoms while they are in their stay that it is not at those times then they will have a test to see if the symptoms there are actually a COVID infection.

The test will be collected on the balcony and that's really good because it's in the fresh air. Staff don't have to enter the guests' rooms, but can take the test on the balcony. Now if a resident tests positive, there's a formal risk assessment done to see the likelihood if they're likely to deteriorate. Generally we ask questions about their health, whether they have any chronic disease and then we can closely tailor the monitoring of that.

Dependent on their risk factors, we generally don't move people if we can help it. That always carries an extra infection risk or transmission risk, but of course if people require hospital treatment, they will be moved to hospital, but otherwise it's anticipated that they'll stay in the facility until they're no longer infectious.

Now there's health care for residents as well, so there will be health consultations. Medical staff will be available 24/7 for these residents. Consultations will generally occur over the phone at first, but there is the option for face to face consultation if required. As well, there is

a medical centre onsite, so there will be a medical building onsite that can be used for medical consultations.

If someone has COVID and they need an assessment we can do something like check their blood oxygen level with a pulse oximeter and take their blood pressure. Or they may need a Primary Health care type assessment, so the sort of thing that you go to your GP for, and that can be done at the medical centre which is onsite. Importantly, the medical centre will be like a Primary Health care facility. It's not an ICU, so there's no ICU beds onsite. If someone requires hospitalisation, they'll be taken off-site to one of our hospitals.

That ends my part of the presentation. I'll hand back and I think we're over to questions now.

**Hew:** Thank you Clare and thank you to all our presenters. We'll now answer some of the questions you submitted when you registered this evening. We were able to cover a lot of information in presenters' content, and so the questions that we're talking about now give us the chance to address some of the more specific information that's been requested, and each of our presenters will talk to the questions that appear on the screen. So I think firstly I'll hand over to Kylie.

**Kylie:** Thanks, so one of the first questions and it's quite a common question that we get asked is what will the Centres be used for after COVID-19. The Centres have been designed to be enduring long term assets and provide capacity into the future. Once there's no longer a need for a dedicated quarantine Centre for the COVID-19 response, the Centre will be able to be used for other purposes.

While a decision hasn't been made about the future use, the Centre may be used for responses to future public health emergencies or as crisis accommodation during natural disasters or potentially as accommodation for Australia's humanitarian efforts. And the decision about future use will be made by the Australian government as the owner of the Centre, and we will continue to keep the community informed.

One specific question has been around the areas of bushland that have been cleared and whether any of the vegetation removed will be replaced elsewhere. If yes, where?

We did remove some grass trees from the site and many of these trees have been transplanted in other projects being run by the Western Australian government. Any other cleared vegetation will remain on site. It'll be mulched and used in landscaping and any of the remediation works.

In terms of wastewater and how that will be handled, wastewater will be treated onsite. There will be water quality monitoring bores that will be utilised to measure the water quality emanating from the wastewater across the facility. Care is being taken to ensure high quality of wastewater during normal operation of this of the site. The treatment system has been designed to deliver high quality treated effluent, allowing it to be discharged safely in an effluent disposal field across the site.

A groundwater monitoring regime will be developed to monitor both onsite and near off-site groundwater quality during the facility operations. Groundwater monitoring has already occurred upstream of the site and this has recorded low levels of PFAS, hydrocarbons and E.coli pathogens associated with historical use of this site itself.

The purpose of future monitoring is to ensure that the groundwater is not further degraded through onsite operations, including the discharge of high quality treated wastewater.

We've also had that question around the types of security that will be in place relating back to perimeter, walls, etc. Katie covered some of this, but the Centre itself has multiple layers of security there. There are screens across the deck balconies that separate each unit with infection, prevention and control in mind. They've been designed to prevent people from being able to reach around and touch another resident in a neighbouring unit. The balconies are also fenced as a security measure to prevent falls.

A 1.8 metre fence will surround each of the resident blocks and a 2.4 metre high fence will surround the facility.

There will also be CCTV throughout the facility, and again this has been carefully designed to ensure it captures all angles in open areas. For example, across covered walkways and in transition spaces to cover the use correct use of PPE by staff, and so the intention from a security point of view is to provide the necessary information around the IPC, but also around the security of the Centre itself.

We've also being asked what medical and hospital facilities will be available on site. We've designed the Centre to include a small health facility, as Katie spoke to, it includes one or two consultation and treatment spaces. It is intended for short term general care matters only and will not have capacity for that tertiary level of care.

There's a question around air conditioning, entertainment facilities, and private bathrooms. I think all of this relates back to the immunity and infection prevention and control and those aspects have been fundamental to the design of the Centre. Each accommodation unit and all central facilities have their own individual air conditioning systems. The air conditioning systems have been designed so that there's no cross contamination of air flow between the units.

For the same reason, all accommodation units have private ensuite bathroom facilities and each staffing area also has separate bathroom facilities to remove the risk of possible infection in exposure for staff working in different areas across the Centre.

Each accommodation unit will be equipped with modern flat screen TVs with access to free to air channels. All rooms also have Wi-Fi Internet capability to enable returned travellers to use their own personal devices such as laptops and tablets.

I might hand over to Kam now to answer some more of the construction related questions.

**Kam:** thanks, Kylie. Good evening and one of the questions that came up was during construction how we prevent grass fires from starting onsite. Firstly, Multiplex has a very comprehensive risk management system. Within that risk management system there is a suite of plans including the occupational health and safety management plans and procedures, that cover any hot works that are to be carried out onsite, such as cutting or any welding or any of those sorts of things.

Prior to any of those hot works being carried out, the safety management system requires a hot work permit to be in place so the workers and subcontractors carrying out these works review and plan out that work, and this has to be detailed and signed off by the subcontractor, supervision and management and, as consequence that then goes through three Multiplex site supervisors to manage and through myself for the hot works permit.

Prior to works commencing, the hot works permit includes many controls such as flammable combustible materials to be clear within the five metre radius of the works being carried out, and also the presence of firefighting equipment such as fire extinguishers and the like and also a requirement for a firewatch spotter to be present during the period of the hot works being undertaken.

And the project boundary is also a fire break in terms of a minimum 6 metre wide haulage road, which is acting as a fire break, and on top of that we have the use of a construction water truck which will be onsite with non portable water supply available at all times.

If something was to happen, we have an emergency response management plan, which alerts authorities and the like, and everyone is aware of that and the procedures to be implemented in the unlikely event of an emergency.

And that was it for bushfires. I think another question we had was minimising noise and traffic for residents during construction.

The noise and traffic impact will be minimal for residents. As Kylie mentioned earlier, most of the construction noise has been engineered or designed out of the job because we'll carry out as much of it as we can off-site to reduce the impact on the site and surrounding.

And we continue to look at that for all the trades going forward. Deliveries of the oversized modular buildings components is restricted for oversized loads and over-length loads between the hours of 9am and 3pm. So the large trucks and deliveries entering site will be restricted between 9am and 3pm.

And that was pretty much it, Kylie.

**Kylie:** Thanks Kam. Katie, I think there's a few questions in your space too.

**Katie:** Some of these we've sort of touched on, but I'll just quickly run through them specifically. So with regards to the length of stay as I said, it is dynamic, but at the moment the requirement is 14 days. However, I would just note that if somebody does test positive then they may be required to stay longer and they just would need to follow the health directions from the health staff.

But as things do change, I would encourage you just to have a look at those websites that were provided at the beginning of my presentation that will have the most up to date information on it, so that's probably the best place to go to.

With regards to benefits to the community and employment opportunities: absolutely, we would really encourage any local residents to apply for positions once they become available or when opportunities do become available. We'll provide more information on that as we move forward and get into more detail, but just to give you an idea of the types of roles at the facility. There's going to be a wide range of functions carried out ranging from maintenance, gardening, catering, laundry wastes, security, healthcare. So there's going to be a huge range of employment created at this facility, so we'll just keep you posted as information comes to hand.

In a similar vein, I think there was a question about preference for local supply of goods and services.

We would look to support local businesses providing goods and services, but we will just have to consider if local content can be incorporated in the operations. So again we'll come back to you on that. But absolutely we would love to support local business.

And the next question might be for Clare. I think Clare did sort of touch on this regarding the number of ICU, whether there will be ICU units at the facility. So Clare did you want to comment on that? I think you sort of touched on it.

**Clare:** Yeah, thanks Katie. So the medical facility at the quarantine Centre will be a Primary Health care style facility, so it will be equipped with things that a general practitioner would use in their rooms rather than anything that would be used in a hospital, and some of exact specifications, we still need to work through. It's anticipated very much that if someone is unwell enough to require hospitalisation, certainly ICU, they will be taken off to hospital and cared for there.

**Katie:** Then I think the last question was about Internet access, so I don't know if I'd say it's unrestricted, but it's very generous. I think it's been planned with the knowledge that people are going to be heavily streaming Netflix while they're in the facility, so there's been an allowance for quite a big amount of data usage per resident, and that will allow them to stream services that allow them to work from their accommodation if they choose to.



And also noting people will be doing video calls and that type of things. So there is quite a generous data allowance in terms of people will have be able to do what they need to do while they're in the room, and I think that's it for me. I think I'll hand back over to here just to finish off.

**Hew:** Thank you all, so we're at the end of the session now and want to thank you very much for being with this that us this evening and we're very grateful for the interest and the questions that have been submitted.

We will continue to keep the Department of Finance website updated on details for the Centre, so please keep an eye out there for further details over the coming days. And we'll also post a video of this session on the website as well. So good evening everyone. Thank you again and we'll finish up now.

*All reasonable attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript against the recording.*