



MEDIA RELEASE

Hospital heliport flight path protection

8 April 2016

Emergency helicopters play a key role in providing medical and trauma services to patients who are critically ill or who may be involved in serious accidents. They are vital to patients in remote areas.

The Department of Health and Human Services is seeking to safeguard the flight paths to the existing helipads across Victoria. This measure to maintain the integrity of an essential part of the health system includes the Charlton, Donald and Wycheproof hospitals.

The Department of Human and Health Services is also seeking to protect the flight path for the new rooftop Bendigo Hospital helipad being constructed as part of the new Bendigo Hospital. Buloke is part of the service catchment area for the new Bendigo Hospital development.

Emergency helicopter flight paths at seventeen hospitals are already protected through Design and Development Overlays (Overlays) in other planning schemes. This proposed amendment is seeking to protect flight paths to the remaining public hospital helipads in Victoria by introducing Overlays to the Ararat, Buloke, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges, Moorabool and Northern Grampians planning schemes.

The existing and proposed Overlays do not introduce a mandatory height limit. Instead, the Overlay triggers a need for a council planning permit for certain buildings and works. All permit applications are referred to the department, which will assess each referral on merit. Where the proposed development does not affect Emergency Medical Services (EMS) helicopter flights, the development is likely to be supported, or supported with conditions.

Community consultation is invited and drop-in sessions will be held at the hospitals on Tuesday 19 April 2016 (Wycheproof 1.30pm-2.30pm, Charlton 3.30pm- 4.30pm and Donald 5.45pm-6.45pm).

Hard copies of the amended documentation is available for viewing at Buloke Shire Council, 367 Broadway Wycheproof or online at:

www.capital.health.vic.gov.au/Asset_property_management_and_operations/Flight_path_protection/

End release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520