Contract awarded to Hindmarsh Construction Australia Pty Ltd

UNSW has awarded the campus redevelopment contract to Hindmarsh Construction Australia Pty Ltd (Hindmarsh). The entire redevelopment program will be carried out over two years. Weather, technical challenges or worksite innovations may alter the program timetable.

A leader in construction, development and property, Hindmarsh has completed many landmark buildings across Australia. Signature projects include Santos and IAG corporate headquarters in Adelaide, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU Canberra, University of Western Sydney Medical School, Queensland Swimming and Aquatic Centre Brisbane and the Waterfront Car park in Darwin.

The company has a longstanding involvement in the industry, advising statutory and local authorities, as well as government, on the implementation of economic and planning policies for each of its operational region.

Demolition, excavation and construction stages

Hindmarsh has commenced site preparation works, which include establishing the project site office and delivering equipment and material to the campus, as well as installing a construction site boundary fence.

These preliminary works will enable the structural demolition activities to occur during the COFA semester break. The structural demolition of Blocks B, C (south) and D, as well as the top floor of Block F, will start this month and continue to early 2011.

The excavation activities are currently scheduled for February 2011, with the construction of Block D planned to start in June 2011.

A work zone will be located in Greens Road adjacent to the site during the construction stage. The work zone is in accordance with the approved Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). Material and equipment will be delivered to the COFA loading dock, or to the Greens Road work zone and then lifted by crane into the site.

There will be a large number of truck movements per day to and from the site during the demolition, excavation and construction stages. The CTMP was developed for the project to manage construction traffic, which include the approved truck routes. As far as possible, truck movements will be restricted to the main road network.

Key components of the CTMP:

- Trucks will approach the site along Oxford Street, Greens Road, or Moore Park Road and Greens Road. They will exit the site via Greens Road and Oxford Street.
- Trucks will enter and leave the site via Greens Road except for vehicles required for activities taking place along the Selwyn Street frontage and where access cannot be reasonably obtained from Greens Road.
- Josephson and Selwyn Streets and Albion Avenue may be used during hours of work where access is not suitable from Greens Road. Hindmarsh will not be accessing the campus from Napier Street.

A copy of the CTMP can be found the the COFA project website.
UNSW and community partnership to relocate plants

The COFA redevelopment project team and local residents worked in partnership to relocate existing plants which needed to be removed to allow installation of the construction site boundary fence.

UNSW campus staff bagged the plants to make it easier for residents to replant them on their property. On the day, local residents Nicholas Gaite, Anastasia Harallambi and Hindmarsh employee Chris Whitton lent a hand.

The plants given to local residents included:
- Philodendron selloum;
- Asplenium australasicum (Birds Nest Fern);
- Aspidistra;
- Yucca; and
- Clivea miniata.

Community voices wanted for Construction Liaison Committee

There are currently vacancies for community representatives on the Construction Liaison Committee (CLC). The Committee provides a consultative forum for residents and businesses near the COFA site to discuss impacts from demolition and construction activities.

The Committee which meets on the second Thursday of each month and includes the contractor, COFA project team representatives and local community and business representatives. Please contact the COFA community information line if you are interested in joining the group. The next CLC meeting is on 13 January 2011.

Design changes to Block F

In December, UNSW presented the preliminary design concepts for the new facade entry to the COFA Redevelopment Community Liaison Committee (CLC) for feedback. Changes to the original facade design were required to minimise the impact to the existing trees within the Napier Street park area.

The key design changes include modifying the step back terrace effect, major amendments to the digital wall to set the screen back several metres, and reinforcing a simpler facade with a more solid structure design.

The draft design will be presented to the CLC on 13 January 2011, prior to the design modifications being submitted to the Department of Planning for approval.