

The State Government is planning a world-class Women and Babies Hospital for Western Australians. The project involves relocating services from the 107-year-old King Edward Hospital. Since 2004 when the Gallop Government released the Reid Report, a template for reform of the health system, QEII has been flagged as the home for the replacement for King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Recently the Labor Government reversed its decision on the QEII location. It was decided to relocate the proposed Women and Babies Hospital to a new Hospital to be built on land within the Fiona Stanley Hospital precinct. In addition, it will expand neonatal and other facilities at Osborne Park Hospital and the Children's Hospital. The Health Minister stated that the original proposal proved too complex and would have caused unacceptable disruption.

COPWR applauded this decision as eminently sensible. The residents in this area of the City of Perth already face gridlock in the streets as cars seek access to the already crowded campus at QEII and buses often share the roads with stationary cars.

COPWR was concerned then when the Liberal Party under Libby Mettam together with the AMA began lobbying to change this decision. Doctors have loudly opposed the move, saying that neonatal transfer will endanger the lives of newborn babies and mothers.

Then in State Parliament in late October 2023 Amber-Jade Sanderson, Minister for Health, suggested that some doctors supported the idea of locating the Women and Babies Hospital south of Monash Avenue, demolishing residential homes in the process. Some of you came together to oppose this suggestion and talk to Post reporter, Lloyd Gorman.

Since that time Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas has confirmed that the land on Monash Avenue is zoned Residential R50 and that the new Local Planning Scheme will not propose changes to this neighbourhood. He has also informed us that the development of the Precinct Plan will involve the community. Zempilas then wrote to the Minister for Health seeking clarity on the issue. On 15 November 2023 he forwarded a copy of the response he received. Minister Sanderson wrote:

Let me assure you and the residents of the area that there are absolutely no Government plans to undertake such an acquisition, compulsory or otherwise.

We can assure you that COPWR will continue its involvement with this issue as we seek to ensure that the community involvement in planning for the future of our area.