Builder appointed for National Life Sciences Hub project

CSU has awarded the contract for construction of the NaLSH Main building, Phytotron, Glasshouses, car park and roadways to Joss Construction of Albury. The appointment followed an extremely competitive tender selection process during the last quarter of 2010. Joss Constructions were selected after demonstrating significant local experience, capacity and enthusiasm to undertake the work. Joss Constructions were recently involved in constructing the new Dental building, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Residences buildings at Wagga Wagga so have a strong understanding of the campus.

The construction contract with Joss is for an approximate value of $34 million which makes this the largest single construction project that CSU has ever undertaken.

Works in progress

The new year will bring significant changes to the Ag Campus at Wagga Wagga. Joss have established their construction site and commenced work.

The site has been fenced off with builder’s fencing in order to ensure site security and the safety of CSU staff, students and visitors. The extent of fencing gives an idea of the scale of the project. The new Phytotron building housing the controlled growth chambers will be located in the area behind Sutherland labs. The main building will be located in the main area which is currently an informal car park opposite the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Residences buildings at Wagga Wagga so have a strong understanding of the campus.

Where necessary, trees have been removed for the construction work and we are aware that some people have expressed concern in this area. Although the number of trees being removed may seem alarming on the empty site, it should be remembered that when the project is completed there will be a minimum of three trees being planted for each tree being removed.

Transport Compound

For those who have visited the area in the last few weeks will be aware that a new compound has been established to replace the area displaced for the construction site. This area is being expanded again in the to cater for more displaced vehicles and will be appropriately signposted. Please be careful when trafficking in an around the construction and service area.

What’s coming up?

The ring road behind the veterinary buildings (and the associated car park) will be completed during March, to enable traffic on Nathan Cobb Drive to use the new road. This will allow Joss to enclose the existing road within their site boundary, as the teaching laboratory wing of the new building sits across the existing road alignment.

Other upcoming work includes:
- general in-ground infrastructure including water and sewer pipe work, electrical and communications cabling;
- high voltage relocations and upgrades;
- stormwater works along Nathan Cobb Drive and part of Pine Gully Road.

Some services disruptions will be required as a result of infrastructure work. Affected staff will be consulted as far in advance as possible and measured employed to mitigate impacts where necessary.

On Site Cameras

The Divisions of Facilities Management and IT are working together to set up 2 high level site cameras which will provide a time lapse record of the progress of works over the next 15 months. Images from these cameras will be
Parking Disruptions

It is acknowledged that there will be traffic and parking disruptions in and around the site until the new car park and link road are completed. This will be particularly the case where the informal car park opposite the VDL used to be.

Please bear with us for this period and specific information will be issued on What’s New and News as required.

Dedicated entries

Joss Constructions will establish dedicated entries to their construction site in accordance with the site set out plan which has been approved and is attached for your information. All contractors will be required to operate in accordance with this and should you become aware of any discrepancies or problems please contact DFM staff as soon as possible so as we can rectify.

Rhizolysimeter

Progress on the Rhizolysimeter works on Agriculture Ave, another major component of this project, has been hampered by the excessive wet weather we have been experiencing (pretty hard when you are building something that is effectively underground). Zauner Constructions are progressing well and all new sample cylinders for the two new bunkers have been collected. Concrete works are progressing slowly but surely, and the project is projected to be complete by mid April 2011. The TDR equipment for monitoring the root growth has been procured and will be installed at the end of the construction works.