

Case Study

Universities & Education / Research & Development



Waimarie - Flagship Science Facility Lincoln University

Completion Date: 2023

Location: Lincoln, Canterbury

Services: Specialist Laboratory Architects



Waimarie, Lincoln University's flagship science facility is a cutting-edge building designed to advance scientific research and education. It showcases science at the heart of the campus, fostering collaboration among researchers, academics, and students.

In collaboration with Warren and Mahoney, the new science facility comprises around 2440m² of research laboratories as well as 1095m² of flat floor teaching laboratories and support spaces where scientists undertake research and grow the knowledge of students with a focus on the areas of land, food and ecosystems.

The research laboratories are a mixture of PC1, PC2 and non-PC located over three floors in a dedicated laboratory block designed for lower vibration and higher servicing (power, gases, data, water, drainage etc) required for the laboratories.

Laboratory spaces are generic and modular in layout to promote access over ownership and maximise collegiality



and adaptability of function. Colour is featured throughout to mark fixtures such as wash hand basins, safety showers and eyewashes. Fume cupboards have been placed out of sight-lines to enable larger views through the building and a goods lift enables waste and material movement within the laboratory zone to the wash-up room autoclave.

The laboratory's entry and exit points, facilitating sample intake and waste disposal, feature large 'fire station' type folding doors, accommodating trailer access to the field prep area on the ground floor. This level comprises shared open laboratories, rooms, and temperature-controlled facilities like cold and freezer rooms, with laboratory access via a gown-in located at the rear of the field prep area.

On Level 1, shared laboratory space and analytical instrument areas are predominant, along with access to the teaching prep laboratory. Level 2 houses the Class 7 clean room and the PC2 laboratory suite, with shared equipment spaces across levels, including incubators, microscopes, and storage facilities.

Teaching laboratories for soils, ecology, and chemistry cater to 60 students each, accessed by teaching staff and technicians via the Teaching Laboratories Prep Area, while students enter through the crush area—a meeting space for students and faculty. Adjacent to the chemistry teaching laboratory, a breakout space offers additional flexibility as a separate study area.

The modular layout of laboratory spaces prioritises accessibility and adaptability, complemented by colour-coded fixtures for easy identification. Fume cupboards are strategically placed for unobstructed views, and a goods lift streamlines waste management. Controlled visibility and adjustable benching ensure comprehensive accessibility and safety compliance throughout the facility.

