



The Airo will give surgeons to access images of patients while they are on the operating table.

Australian 'first' for CT scanner

Spinal surgeon Paul Taylor performed Australia's first surgery using an in-theatre CT scanner at the Mount Hospital last week.

The Brainlab Airo Mobile Intraoperative CT (Airo) is ideal for cranial, spine and trauma procedures.

It produces high-resolution CT images, which increase surgeon confidence and supports advanced minimally-invasive surgery.

The hospital installed one of the first Airos in the southern hemisphere earlier this month and is looking forward to more of its accredited surgeons using

the large-bore, mobile, 32-slice CT scanner.

Dr Taylor, who is chairman of Mount Hospital's medical advisory committee, has previously used similar navigation systems and was happy with last week's surgery.

"I had the perfect patient to utilise this technology. It allowed me to place screws into the patient's spine via computer-generated navigation, and then to CT scan the patient while still under anaesthetic to ensure that the screws were in the correct position," Dr Taylor said.

Hospital deputy general manager Marc Foley said: "The Airo

allows us access to CT images of the patient's anatomy while they are still in the operating room, letting surgeons make decisions rapidly and change course if required.

"This helps to both save time and, when combined with our image-guided surgery system, enables greater surgical accuracy.

"Airo has the potential to change daily practice in the surgical space and can be used in virtually any standard-sized operating room.

"Mount Hospital is thrilled to be the first hospital in Australia to be using this technology."

Market glut delays Doyle Court offices

Part of the \$5million project to conserve Doyle Court, in Rokeby Road, and build four storeys of offices behind it, has stalled because of a glut of offices in Subiaco.

On Tuesday night, Subiaco councillors voted to recommend a two-year extension to the approval the local development assessment panel had granted in October 2013.

McDonald Jones Architects told the meeting that the owners, Winston Holdings, had delayed building the office block because they were worried they would not be able to find tenants for it.

Planning approval for Doyle Court's conservation and addition was due to expire about a week ago.

Winston Holdings still plans to proceed with the conservation part of the project.

"Due to market conditions with regard to office space in the Subiaco area, the owners have delayed proceeding with the construction of the four-storey addition until there is some certainty that the completed building will be fully tenanted," the architects said.

"Preparations have been made for the conservation works to proceed, a contract has been signed and a building permit application submitted."

The office block development is the latest DAP-approved project whose developers have asked for more time before building.

Standard development approvals are valid for two years.

Earlier this year, the owners of a planned and approved \$60million, eight-storey office block in Seddon Street, Subiaco, success-

fully asked the council and the DAP for a similar extension.

They said their project – approved in April last year – was complex and would need to be delayed to coordinate with the \$120million redevelopment of the nearby Subiaco Pavilion market site.

Last year, another developer, architects Meyer Shircore and Associates, asked the DAP for extra time to build their four-storey office block at 19-27 Catherine Street, Subiaco.

The \$8million building – opposite a row of heritage terrace homes – had been approved in March 2012 and again in August with some changes.

The DAP said an extension was not possible and that the developers would have to submit a new development application.

Training wheels

Peppermint Grove councillors have two weeks to comment on the WA Local Government Association's suggestion that local councillors do mandatory training.

Peppermint Grove CEO John Merrick said WALGA was asking a somewhat philosophical question of the councillors.

Mr Merrick emphasised the importance of councillors.

"With \$4.4billion in annual revenue and \$27.6billion of non-financial assets under management, the local government sector requires competent and well-qualified political leadership," he said in the report.

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