

Bendigo contractor will clear site for new hospital

BRETT WORTHINGTON

A BENDIGO contractor will receive a demolition contract for the new Bendigo hospital development.

New Bendigo hospital officials will announce the contract recipient at 10.30am today.

The *Bendigo Advertiser* spoke to a number of demolition companies yesterday.

Licensed demolition contractor Ken Hopley confirmed he had been in negotiations with hospital officials.

He said he was unable to comment further until a later date.



The contract is for the demolition of the former Loddon Linen Service's buildings.

Bendigo Health chief executive officer John Mulder announced the impending closure of Loddon Linen in September last year.

Hospital officials last month announced Ballarat's Eureka Linen had received the contract to replace Loddon Linen.

The Loddon Linen

building will make way for the \$630 million new hospital.

Loddon Linen lost a St John of God Bendigo contract in 2008 and a Royal Children's Hospital contract in 2009, which combined were about a third of the service's turnover.

The service had 46 permanent staff who have either opted for redundancy packages or been redeployed within Bendigo Health.

The state government is yet to announce the short list of bidders that are vying to build the hospital.

Contractors are preparing the site for work ahead of construction in December.