



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday, 25 October 2012

#### **PICTURES OF PROGRESS ON NEW BEGA HOSPITAL**

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, was today joined by the Member for Bega, Andrew Constance, to view schematic designs of the new Bega Hospital.

The viewing represents progress on the \$170.1 million development, which has now transitioned from planning to design and delivery phases.

Mrs Skinner said tenders for the early works will be released later this year and work is set to commence on-site in early 2013, once the hospital's development application has been approved.

"It is great to see plans of this hospital, which Mr Constance and I first committed to build for the community of Bega and surrounds back in 2002," Mrs Skinner said.

"Now locals can see firsthand how their new hospital will look and importantly how their new services will be provided."

The new \$170.1 million South East Regional Hospital is a joint initiative of the Australian and NSW Government's under the Health and Hospitals Fund with the Australian Government providing \$160.1 million and \$10 million provided by the NSW Government.

Mr Constance said the new Bega Hospital is one of the most important developments in the region's history.

"This vital piece of infrastructure will deliver enhanced medical services for our community to meet health care needs well into the future.

"The hospital will provide a range of services including maternity, orthopaedic, emergency and surgical, and will save people from travelling out of the region for medical procedures and treatment.

"This is a project that is expected to generate 1500 direct and indirect jobs during the construction phase with more employment opportunities after the hospital opens in the clinical, non-clinical and support services workforce," Mr Constance said.

The commencement of the main construction works at Bega is scheduled for mid-2013 and it is expected that the project will be completed in early 2016.

The project includes the following:

- An expanded emergency department including an emergency medical unit;
- An expanded intensive care / critical care service
- Additional medical and surgical beds
- A new and dedicated rehabilitation service
- Dedicated palliative care beds
- An expanded mental health service
- Expanded medical oncology unit
- Expanded renal dialysis unit
- An upgraded maternity and neonatal unit
- An upgraded paediatric unit and
- Expansion of primary and community health care and ambulatory services.