



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEXT STAGE OF PLANNING FOR BYRON SHIRE CENTRAL HOSPITAL

Health Minister Jillian Skinner, Member for Ballina Don Page and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health Melinda Pavey today announced \$500,000 for the next stage of planning for the Byron Shire Central Hospital.

“It’s great to be in Northern NSW today to talk about current health services and plan for the future of this region,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The next stage of planning for the Byron Shire Central Hospital is the development of a master plan and a business case.

“A master plan will be undertaken for the Ewingsdale site and will examine a number of issues, including the site’s topography and where other health buildings will be located to complement the services delivered by the future hospital.

“Health Infrastructure will commence development of the master plan and business case for the new hospital in early 2013.

“The Byron Shire Central Hospital is a long-term commitment and demonstrates the NSW Government is looking forward to ensure our growing regional communities have quality health care now and in the future.

“This project is too important not to get right which is why the NSW Government is committed to investing in comprehensive planning for the benefit of future patients, family and carers in this region.”

Mr Page said master planning for the site and services was crucial.

“The master planning will assess the needs of local residents to ensure their clinical needs will be met and that external considerations, including aesthetic and noise, are evaluated.

“The Northern NSW Local Health District Board has endorsed the Byron Shire Clinical Services Plan and has asked that the next stage of planning for the new hospital be sped up,” Mr Page said.

Ms Pavey said: “These further steps toward the development of the Byron Shire Central Hospital demonstrate the NSW Government’s commitment to the future provision of high quality services for residents in our region.”