Jillian Skinner MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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WORK BEGINS ON INTERIM UPGRADE FOR LISMORE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Lismore MP Thomas George today announced early works for the NSW Government-funded $2.95 million Lismore Hospital emergency department upgrade have commenced.

Mrs Skinner said Woollam Constructions has been awarded a contract to undertake early works on the project, which will alleviate pressure on Lismore Hospital's busy emergency department.

"I know the community shares my excitement to see work beginning to improve emergency care provided at Lismore Hospital," Mrs Skinner said.

"The early works represent the commencement of the project to build an interim emergency medicine unit (EMU) to improve patient flow until the major redevelopment of the hospital is complete in 2016.

"These early works are a prelude to the first stage of the project, which will build a new endoscopy unit above the new PET/CT and MRI scanner accommodation.

"Once the endoscopy service transfers into its new unit, work will commence on the second stage of the project, which will see the construction of the emergency medicine unit.

"Rebuilding our state's hospitals is a vital part of the NSW Government's commitment to health and the enhancement of emergency care at Lismore Hospital is a great example of this," Mrs Skinner said.

Mr George said the emergency medicine unit is a welcome addition to Lismore Hospital.

"This upgrade will expand the emergency department floor space by around 40 per cent," Mr George said.

"I know this interim space will be of great benefit to patients and staff as a precursor to the delivery of the hospital's new emergency department.

"I have no doubt this interim upgrade will improve experiences for patients at Lismore Hospital's emergency department until the major redevelopment is finalised in 2016."

Completion and operation of the emergency medicine unit is expected in February 2014.