



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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RURAL & REGIONAL HOSPITAL REBUILD UPDATE

The NSW Government's \$4.7 billion investment in hospital redevelopments is seeing great progress on projects across rural and regional areas of the state, Health Minister Jillian Skinner today.

Mrs Skinner said communities in rural and regional NSW are now seeing firsthand the NSW Government's record injection of funds in hospital rebuilds.

"The communities of towns including Tamworth, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, Armidale, Port Macquarie, Goulburn, Bega, Lismore, Kempsey and the Illawarra are rejoicing to see real investments being made to enhance their health services.

"This is about more than bricks and mortar – the NSW Government is rebuilding not just the physical surrounds of our rural and regional hospitals but the morale of staff who have long been promised these upgrades.

"It is wonderful to see hospital patients and staff benefitting from the NSW Government's commitment to hospital rebuilds and refurbishments.

"I relish the opportunity to visit our rural and regional hospitals, particularly those which are being redeveloped as part of our \$4.7 billion commitment to upgrading hospital infrastructure across the state over this term of government," Mrs Skinner said.

The NSW Government hospital redevelopment (including Commonwealth Government collaboration projects) schedule includes:

Tamworth Hospital – \$220 million investment

- Building demolition commences in May; construction of new acute hospital building follows; construction has begun on ring road and services diversions; demountable construction is complete and occupied. The project is due for completion early 2016.

Wagga Wagga Base Hospital – \$270 million investment

- New carpark complete; construction of 50 bed mental health unit started June 2012 and to be completed late 2013; demolition work of resumed buildings underway; preparations have begun for new acute hospital including new emergency department, operating theatres, intensive care and high dependency units. Hospital construction to begin mid-2014, completion late 2016.

Dubbo Hospital – \$79.8 million investment

- Master-planning and design development complete. Main works to begin mid-2013 to start work on new buildings and refurbishment of new surgery and operating theatres, birthing suite and maternity services; upgraded renal dialysis unit and new car park. Completion scheduled for mid-2015. Hospital upgrade includes Dubbo Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit which was completed February 2013.

Kempsey Hospital– \$80 million investment

- Early works tender awarded shortly. Planning to be finalised this month. Main works, including new hospital building in middle of site; scheduled completion late 2015.

Lismore Hospital – \$80 million investment

- Early works for new multi-storey development have begun. New and expanded emergency department with 31 spaces, plus \$2.95 million NSW Government-funded Emergency Medicine Unit with 12 treatment spaces. Main works commence to commence next year.

South East Regional Hospital (Bega) – \$170 million investment

- New hospital is being built on a greenfield site at Bega and will include an expanded emergency department, emergency medicine unit and additional operating theatres. Construction commenced in April 2013, due to be completed early 2016.

Multi-Purpose Service projects, including:

- **Lockhart MPS** – NSW Government commitment of \$8 million. Construction is underway.
- **Gulgong MPS** – NSW Government commitment of \$7 million. Work set to commence shortly.
- **Peak Hill MPS** – NSW Government commitment of \$6 million. Works to commence by mid-2013.

Regional Cancer Centres, including:

- The newly completed **Central Coast Regional Cancer Centre**, and the **New England North West Regional Cancer Centres**.
- **Illawarra Regional Cancer Centre** - \$14 million project is expected to be operational later this year.
- **Shoalhaven Regional Cancer Centre** – the NSW Government has committed \$10 million to this project, which is due to be operational later this year.

Planning for regional hospitals, including:

- **New Maitland Region Hospital** - the NSW Government has committed \$20 million through toward planning for improved health services for the people of Maitland and the Hunter Valley and to acquire land for the proposed new hospital. An extensive evaluation process is underway to enable the identification of the preferred site by mid-2013.
- **Byron Bay Shire Central Hospital** – the NSW Government has committed \$500,000 for the next stage of planning for the Byron Shire Central Hospital. Planning is expected to be complete before the end of the year.