



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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IMPORTANT MILESTONES REACHED AT MID NORTH COAST HOSPITALS

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today joined Acting Premier and Oxley MP Andrew Stoner to meet with staff and patients at Kempsey and Wauchope Hospitals.

While touring Kempsey Hospital, Mr Stoner and Mrs Skinner announced the successful tenderer for the early works of the hospital's \$80 million redevelopment.

"Lahey Constructions has been awarded the early works tender to kick off this long-awaited and much-needed redevelopment," Mr Stoner said.

"It's wonderful to see a local company, based at Kempsey, starting the works on our hospital."

Mrs Skinner said it was rewarding to see progress on the redevelopment, which was announced just over a year ago.

"Mr Stoner and I made a commitment to the people of regional NSW that we would enhance their hospitals and health services. Today we are seeing real progress on this promise," Mrs Skinner said.

"The upgraded hospital will provide the community with a variety of health services, focused on areas including Aboriginal health, chronic and complex care management, family and children's services, drug and alcohol services as well as hospital avoidance programs."

Mr Stoner said main construction works are scheduled to commence in early 2014, with the new buildings set to be completed in late 2015. The refurbishment of the facility will be completed in mid-2016.

"It's great to have the Minister here at Kempsey today to mark milestones on this long-awaited project, which will deliver countless benefits for our community well into the future," Mr Stoner said.

The \$80 million Kempsey redevelopment is funded by \$40 million from the NSW Government and \$40 million from the Commonwealth's Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF).

The redevelopment includes:

- a new main entrance and front of house services;
- a new and expanded emergency department;

- a new emergency medical unit;
- the establishment of an integrated community care centre;
- a new medical imaging department;
- a new acute inpatient unit;
- new and expanded high dependency and coronary care unit;
- new operating theatres and day surgery unit, with expanded day surgery unit, and,
- major expansion of renal dialysis services and oral health services.

Mrs Skinner and Mr Stoner also visited Wauchope Memorial District Hospital to celebrate the hard work of hospital staff and volunteers with a barbeque lunch.