



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 17 June 2013

MAIN WORKS TENDERS CALLED FOR SOUTH EAST REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Health Minister Jillian Skinner, Bega MP Andrew Constance and Federal Member for Eden-Monaro Dr Mike Kelly today announced tenders have been called to complete the main works construction of the \$170.1 million South East Regional Hospital at Bega.

Mrs Skinner said the announcement marked another major milestone on this exciting project.

“Just two months ago, I had the great pleasure of meeting with Andrew Constance to sod turn for the early works of this project,” Mrs Skinner said.

“I know the community joins me in their excitement to see main works tenders called for this important development, which will deliver a wide range of new health services for the local community.

“The NSW Government is committed to ensuring our rural and regional communities have access to modern quality health care closer to home – the South East Regional Hospital is a great example of this commitment.”

Mr Constance said it is anticipated the main works contract will be awarded in September 2013 and construction will commence as soon as the early works contractor is finished on-site.

“The early works on-site have been progressing well with most of the bulk earth works completed, car parking and the installation of the main service lines have commenced and road works have started.

“Already we’re seeing real progress on-site and once the main works begin, the community will be able to see their hospital growing out of the ground.

“The sheer scale and importance of the South East Regional Hospital for our community is enormous and this is another milestone which we can be proud of.”

Dr Kelly said the South East Regional Hospital, for which he and the Federal Government delivered 95 per cent of the funding, was the most exciting project he had been involved with.

“Even before this magnificent facility opens, with all of the expanded services it will bring us, we will see around 1500 jobs created in its construction,” Dr Kelly said.

“Today’s opening of tenders is great news for local employment and, of course, for better health services which I know are the number one priority of residents in Eden-Monaro.

“It is a great thrill to see this project coming to fruition, having been involved in every step of the process – from negotiating the land deal to securing the \$160million funding and working closely with the Local Health District and community members.

“This state-of-the-art hospital, which will be complete with all the tele-health benefits our National Broadband Network rollout will offer, will give local residents access to same top quality health services that those in the cities enjoy.”

The \$170.1 million South East Regional Hospital is scheduled for completion in early 2016 and will provide services including:

- An expanded emergency department, including an emergency medical unit;
- More critical care services, incorporating intensive care, high dependency and cardio beds in the one unit;
- A regional orthopaedic service;
- Expanded surgical services with three operating theatres;
- New and expanded acute medical, surgical, stroke, maternity and paediatrics services;
- Drug and alcohol services;
- An inpatient sub-acute care unit focusing on rehabilitation and palliative care services to address the needs of an ageing population and post orthopaedic care requirements;
- A regional inpatient mental health service with 20 mental health beds providing adult acute admission and rehabilitation services and specialist older people’s mental health services;
- The expansion of community and primary health care services;
- A range of clinical support services, including medical imaging, pharmacy and pathology, with the necessary communication, medical record, information technology and tele-health infrastructure to support modern health care in rural and remote locations;
- Teaching and training facilities in medicine, nursing and allied health care;
- Car parking for around 500 vehicles.

The \$170.1 million South East Regional Hospital is funded through the Health and Hospitals Fund program – the Australian Government is providing \$160.1 million and \$10 million will be provided by the NSW Government along with ongoing staff and operational costs.

More information on the project is available on the new project website - www.serh.org.au