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BILLION-DOLLAR BUILDING BOOST FOR NSW HOSPITALS

Capital projects worth in excess of \$1.2 billion will unfold across the state this year as the NSW Government gets on with the job of rebuilding the hospital system, Health Minister Jillian Skinner said today.

This represents an increase of 10% on last year's capital works spend.

"The capital funding provisions for health in the NSW Budget is about more than bricks and mortar – it is about building the hospitals and health care facilities our patients and staff expect and deserve.

"From Peak Hill to Port Macquarie, Bega to Blacktown Mount Druitt, there will be over \$1.2 billion worth of capital works in the coming year alone.

"I am very proud that, in its first term, the NSW Government committed \$4.7 billion to upgrading hospital infrastructure across the state.

"The former Labor government neglected our hospitals. This government is building them up again so our clinicians, nurses and other hospital staff have facilities to match their outstanding levels of professionalism and care for patients."

Key capital works projects for 2013-14 in the Sydney metropolitan area include:

- \$71.1 million to continue construction of the \$270 million Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital expansion Stage 1.
- \$49.8 million to continue work on the Campbelltown Hospital redevelopment at an estimated total cost of \$139.1 million.
- \$40.6 million to continue the \$120 million Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital Stage 1 redevelopment.
- \$29.1 million toward the development of the Northern Beaches Health Service.
- \$19.5 million to continue the \$39 million emergency department upgrade at St George Hospital.
- \$11.2 million to continue work on the Blacktown car park expansion and \$2.3 million to continue work on the Nepean Hospital car park expansion.
- \$81.8 million to continue construction of the \$144.4 million Royal North Shore Hospital clinical services building.
- \$8.9 million for fleet replacement for the Ambulance Service of NSW.

Key capital works in rural and regional areas include:

- \$32.8 million to commence construction of the new \$170.1 million South East Regional Hospital (Bega).
- \$9 million to commence the \$80 million redevelopment of Kempsey Hospital.
- \$8.9 million to start the \$80.3 million Lismore Hospital redevelopment.
- \$2 million for the Hillston Multi Purpose Service.

- \$2 million for the Peak Hill Multi Purpose Service.
- \$2.9 million for the Lockhart Multi Purpose Service.
- \$2.8 million for the Gulgong Multi Purpose Service.
- \$2.5 million for the Yamba Community Health Centre.
- \$11.5 million to continue work on the Wollongong Hospital car park expansion.

Meanwhile, work will continue on the following rural and regional projects:

- \$59.5 million to continue work on the \$110 million Port Macquarie Hospital expansion.
- \$42.1 million to continue work on the \$270.1 million Wagga Wagga Hospital redevelopment.
- \$35.8 million to continue the construction of the \$79.8 million acute services redevelopment at Dubbo Hospital.
- \$45.8 million to build the \$86 million Wollongong Hospital elective surgery unit.

There is \$4.5 million for future car parks, including for new works at Sutherland, and planning for future car parks at Coffs Harbour and Westmead, as well as for the establishment of a new Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the John Hunter Children's Hospital.

The 2013-14 Budget also delivers a \$145 million boost to information and communication technology across NSW for programs including the electronic medical record rollout, the new medications management system and the intensive care unit clinical information system.

"I am very fortunate, as minister, to visit the hospitals which are benefiting from this Government's determination to rebuild and refurbish our hospitals and health care facilities," Mrs Skinner said.

"We are building environments in which clinical excellence can flourish and where patients feel comfortable as they undertake the journey to recovery."