



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 4 July 2013

PREFERRED SITE SELECTED FOR PARKES HOSPITAL

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Dubbo Troy Grant today announced a major milestone for the Lachlan Health Service project by naming the preferred site for the redevelopment of Parkes Hospital.

Mrs Skinner said the preferred site is located just two kilometres south of the Parkes town centre on the Newell Highway opposite McPherson's Parts and Service.

"I know the community joins me in my excitement for the future of Parkes Hospital," Mrs Skinner said.

"Troy and I have fought for years to provide the Parkes community with a health service they deserve and we are now well on our way to delivering this.

"The new site was selected after a thorough investigation and analysis of several short-listed sites and has the endorsement of key stakeholders.

"The NSW Government made its commitment to the people of Parkes clear and it's wonderful we are marking more milestones on this project."

Mr Grant said each shortlisted site underwent a series of analysis and investigation to ensure it met specific criteria.

"The site that scored the highest overall rating was selected as the preferred site and Health Infrastructure will now commence the site purchase process," Mr Grant said.

"During workshops with key health service and community representatives earlier this year, it was decided to redevelop the Parkes Hospital.

"The Forbes workshop attendees agreed on a concept design for refurbishment of the hospital on its current site.

"The Lachlan Health Service project team plans to present the schematic designs of both hospitals to the Parkes and Forbes communities in the coming months.

"When completed, this project will transform the way patients access health care in our region. It will provide enhanced hospital and health services and improve the connections between Parkes and Forbes hospitals to ensure better health outcomes for their communities and surrounding areas.

“Today marks the beginning of a new era of health care for our community and I’m proud the NSW Government is delivering on its commitment to the people of Parkes.”

The NSW Government has committed to a redeveloped hospital for Parkes and refurbishment of Forbes Hospital.

A further \$12.5 million has been allocated in the 2013-14 Budget to progress this important project, in addition to an allocation of \$2.3 million for planning in the 2012-13 Budget.

The new Lachlan Health Service Project will deliver:

- Improved patient experiences;
- The latest in communication and health technology;
- Enhanced health outcomes for the indigenous community;
- Improved management of chronic care patients;
- Strengthened workforce capabilities and flexibility;
- Better service integration between health and non-health services

The Lachlan Health Service project is on track to begin construction in late-2014.