



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE MILESTONES FOR \$6.5 MILLION MUSWELLBROOK EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT REDEVELOPMENT

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Upper Hunter George Souris today announced the successful tenderer for the \$6.5 million Muswellbrook Hospital Emergency Department redevelopment.

Hunter New England Local Health District has awarded the contract to Hansen Yuncken and workers are expected to be on-site this week.

“The appointment of the construction company and the imminent start of work is an important milestone for this vital project,” Mrs Skinner said.

“In a little over a year, the people of Muswellbrook and surrounding communities will have access to a modern, expanded Emergency Department with the latest technology.

“The new Emergency Department will deliver extra beds and treatment spaces and greatly improved facilities for staff and visitors.

“The NSW Government is investing \$4 million in this project, which will improve acute health services for the many residents of Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter.”

HNE Health is partnering with BHP Billiton to deliver the project. The company is providing \$2.5 million through BHP Billiton Sustainable Communities, a charity established as part of its community investment program.

Mr Souris said Hansen Yuncken is well known around Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter having built the award-winning Muswellbrook Library, major workshop complexes at Bengalla and Ravensworth North mines and other infrastructure projects.

“Hansen Yuncken knows Muswellbrook well and is well-connected with our sub-contractors,” Mr Souris said.

“I am told the firm hopes to use local suppliers and sub-contractors where it can, which is great news for our community.

“As well as delivering a much-needed new Emergency Department, this project will also bring an economic boost to the Muswellbrook community and help support local jobs.”

The new Emergency Department is scheduled for completion by the end of 2014. It will include:

- Three acute treatment beds;
- A paediatric treatment bed;
- A two-bed resuscitation bay for critically unstable patients;

- Consult rooms;
- Procedure/plaster room
- A room for assessing patients who are experiencing mental health and other issues;
- A private room for women experiencing difficulties in early pregnancy;
- An upgraded and expanded reception and waiting area that will include an outdoor courtyard, a children's play area, a parents room and public toilets;
- Upgraded facilities for doctors, nursing and other staff, and
- New ambulance bays and entry point.

It will also incorporate the latest digital and telehealth technology that will link Muswellbrook with specialists and clinicians at other sites, such as John Hunter and Maitland hospitals, where real-time specialist healthcare, advice and assistance will be provided to local staff treating critically ill patients.

Information and updates on Muswellbrook Hospital's new Emergency Department are available on the new project website at http://www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au/muswellbrook_emergency_department_redevelopment