



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 4 December 2013

NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITS \$400,000 TO PLAN NEXT STAGE OF WAGGA WAGGA REDEVELOPMENT

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today announced \$400,000 to progress planning for the next stage of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital redevelopment.

Mrs Skinner made the announcement while on a two-day visit to Wagga Wagga and said the next redevelopment stage will follow on from the \$282 million upgrade to the hospital.

“The complete redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital has always been a priority for the NSW Liberals & Nationals,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Our investment in health at Wagga Wagga already represents the biggest hospital redevelopment in regional NSW. I’m pleased we’re now building on this with further funding to plan the next steps of the redevelopment to deliver new ambulatory care and rehabilitation services.

“Above all else, we want to ensure this facility will meet the health needs of the Riverina well into the future. This planning money is vital and underpins the next stage of the hospital redevelopment.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals are committed to ensuring patients are able to access quality care, closer to home and we are delivering on this commitment to the people of Wagga Wagga.”

The planning process will involve consultation with local staff, clinicians and management to identify the key clinical priorities.

The Murrumbidgee Local Health District will determine details of the development based on future clinical needs of Wagga Wagga Health Service following local consultation.

Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire welcomed today’s announcement saying it clearly demonstrates the NSW Liberals & Nationals commitment to enhancing health care in the region.

“The upgrade already being undertaken at our hospital is unprecedented and health care can only continue to improve with this support and investment,” Mr Maguire said.

“Unlike Labor, this government is planning the future of health care for this region and delivering an upgraded facility that both staff and patients can be proud of.” Planning will commence in early 2014 and it is anticipated that the first stage of planning will be finalised by late 2014.”

The \$282.1 million redevelopment is a jointly funded project, with the NSW Government providing \$215 million and the Federal Government contributing \$55.1 million from the Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF). A further \$12 million has been allocated from the Federal Government under the COAG New Sub-Acute Beds Guarantee for 20 sub-acute mental health beds.

The current redevelopment will deliver:

- additional acute overnight inpatient capacity;
- an expanded emergency department;
- an expanded operating theatre suite including recovery capacity;
- a cardiac catheterisation laboratory & angiography suite;
- women’s and children’s inpatient unit additional birthing suites;
- an expansion of the central sterilising services department, and
- an expanded medical imaging department.