



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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GETTING ON WITH THE JOB: \$106 MILLION WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL EXPANSION SURGES AHEAD

Work on the redevelopment and expansion of Wollongong Hospital campus has reached another significant milestone, with construction of the \$106 million Illawarra Elective Surgical Services Centre passing the halfway mark, Health Minister Jillian Skinner said today.

Mrs Skinner said the campus footprint has significantly increased and the works will continue to develop Wollongong Hospital's capacity to deliver world-class services.

"The NSW Government is proud of its \$86 million commitment to enhance the surgical capabilities of Wollongong Hospital and the \$20 million expansion of the Emergency Department and new Ambulatory Care Centre," Mrs Skinner said.

"This is a hospital that delivers first class care and the Elective Surgical Services Centre will be a first class facility. The redevelopment will house seven new operating theatres, 60 new surgical beds and a new 24-bed intensive care unit.

"The structure continues to rise out of the ground and once built will herald a new era for the Wollongong Hospital campus and the community."

Minister for the Illawarra John Ajaka said the redevelopment is surging ahead, demonstrating the NSW Government's commitment to patients in the region.

"This government is getting on with the job of delivering enhanced health services to ensure our community is getting best quality care, closer to home," Mr Ajaka said.

Member for Kiama Gareth Ward said the NSW Government is making record investments in health services for the benefit of Illawarra patients and their families.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals investment in Wollongong Hospital represents one of the largest capital infrastructure enhancements in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District," Mr Ward said.

"In addition to the \$106 million Illawarra Elective Surgical Services Centre, we have recently officially opened the \$14 million Illawarra Cancer Care Centre expansion and preliminary work is well underway on the \$27.8 million multi-storey car park for Wollongong Hospital.

Member for Heathcote Lee Evans said about 130 local contractors have worked on the project to date, with around 400 set to be part of construction by its completion.

"There are enormous flow-on benefits from NSW Government's investment in redeveloping our health services," Mr Evans said.

“Not only are our health services being enhanced but, through these redevelopments, jobs are also benefitting our local economy.”

The past 12 months have seen bulk excavation works finalised, establishment works for the hospital’s new footprint and expanded campus. A massive 70-metre tower crane was also installed last year and has enabled the commencement of construction of the new building. Four of the six levels are now built.

The Hospital’s Loftus Street entrance has been transformed as works on the new loading dock continue and connection is made between the new building and the existing hospital.

Works have included:

- Bulk excavation of 1650 tonnes of material, including 750 tonnes solid rock;
- 3300 cubic metres of concrete have been used so far in the project; this is the equivalent of building almost 100 new average-sized houses;
- 340 tonnes of steel have been used so far; this quantity could build around 60 cars.

“Major construction is testing at the best of times but when it happens in and around a busy hospital environment it can be even more challenging. I thank staff, patients, visitors and the hospital’s neighbours for their continued support during this project,” Mrs Skinner said.

Patients and families who are unsure about diversions or changes at the hospital should speak with staff in their treatment area.

The community is also reminded that drop-off/pick-up zones remain in place at both the Loftus Street and Crown Street entrances as well as to the Emergency Department off Darling Street.

Construction on the Illawarra Elective Surgical Services Centre project is scheduled for completion in late 2015.

Tenders for the hospital’s car park development are due to be called shortly.