



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAIN WORKS SURGE AHEAD FOR \$40.9 MILLION FORBES HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Dubbo Troy Grant today welcomed news that Lahey Constructions Pty Ltd has been awarded the main works tender for the \$40.9 million refurbishment of Forbes Hospital.

Mrs Skinner said early works commenced on site at the beginning of this year and are expected to be completed by mid-September.

“I visited Forbes Hospital just last month and was impressed to see the progress being made on this redevelopment,” Mrs Skinner said.

“I was really pleased to see firsthand the refurbishment of the beautiful heritage building and the clearing and early works behind it, which will be the site for what is effectively a new clinical block.

“Forbes Hospital has cared for the local community for decades and it’s now time for us to provide some TLC for this facility.

“Forbes remains one of the most beautiful hospitals I have visited across the state and I’m pleased to see main works will soon start to upgrade this much-loved facility.

“The NSW Government is getting on with the job of enhancing rural health services after almost two decades of Labor neglect.

“I’m committed to ensuring rural communities have access to quality care, closer to home and investments like this are vital so staff can deliver their first-class care in first-class facilities.”

Mr Grant said the early works program included the demolition of Kumbiri House and the refurbishment of McLean (heritage) building.

“The redevelopment of Forbes Hospital will change the way health care is delivered to this community,” Mr Grant said.

“Main works construction will begin toward the end of next month, with the initial stages focused on earth works, site establishment and the installation of in-ground services.

“The new infrastructure at Forbes will ensure services will be delivered more efficiently, and these improved services will help to attract and retain a highly skilled and motivated workforce.

“The redevelopment will also provide a higher standard of access and amenity for patients and their loved ones.

“I’m incredibly proud of the work being undertaken across our region to improve our health services and Forbes is just one piece of the pie.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals are upgrading four of our hospitals and health facilities, with about \$215 million being invested in redevelopments in our region.”

The \$40.9 million redevelopment of Forbes Hospital comprises of new purpose built infrastructure and refurbishment work including:

- Emergency Department
- Inpatient ward
- Birthing suites for maternity services
- Upgrade of Ambulatory Care treatment area, including expanded renal and dental facilities
- Clinical Support Services, including Medical Records and Medical Imaging; and
- Refurbishment of the heritage building for office spaces.

The Lachlan Health Service Project, which includes the refurbishment of Forbes Hospital and the \$72.5 million redevelopment of Parkes Hospital, is scheduled to be complete in late-2016.

For all the latest information about the redevelopment visit the project website <http://www.lachlanhealthserviceproject.health.nsw.gov.au/>