



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 17 February 2015

TOP THAT: NEW WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL CAR PARK REACHES MILESTONE

Wollongong Hospital is celebrating a major milestone with construction workers reaching the highest point in construction of the new \$30.5 million car park.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and local Liberal candidates Cameron Walters (Wollongong), Mark Jones (Shellharbour) and Philip Clifford (Keira) today visited the site to mark the project milestone.

A tree was placed at the highest point in accordance with a European building tradition known as “topping out”.

The new multi-deck car park will provide 750 additional car spaces and is being built next to the existing 566-space car park, adjacent to the Wollongong Hospital. This is in addition to the 434 on-street spaces within 500 metres of the hospital.

Mrs Skinner said the new car park will more than double current parking capacity and will connect to the Wollongong Hospital via the existing foot bridge across New Dapto Road.

“The new car park is more than 100 spaces larger than the 638 spaces announced in June 2012,” Mrs Skinner said.

“This project will be delivered on budget and ahead of schedule, with works anticipated to be complete by June this year.

“It’s clear this new car park is needed and it complements the NSW Government’s investment in the \$106 million Wollongong Hospital redevelopment.”

Kiama MP Gareth Ward said the total floor area of the new and existing car parking areas at Wollongong Hospital will be equivalent to six football fields.

“The upgrades happening at Wollongong Hospital are second to none and I’m pleased this project is delivering more than we promised and ahead of schedule,” Mr Ward said.

“The sheer size of this project is incredible. I’m told the amount of rock excavated during construction would be enough to fill 14 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

“Nearly every patient survey identifies the lack of parking as a major issue and the NSW Liberals & Nationals are getting on with the job of fixing it for the benefit of local staff, patients and visitors.”

The car park project includes:

- Upgrading existing car park equipment;
- Two new lifts as part of the new car park;
- Installation of an additional lift and replacement of the existing lift in the existing car park to provide better access;
- A new modern car park management system which will include credit card facilities at exit gates and staff access by existing security passes.

The car park will also provide dedicated parking for motor cycles and bicycles for patients, public and staff.