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**WYONG HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT SET TO BEGIN**

The $200 million Wyong Hospital redevelopment has taken a major step forward with a milestone sod turn today marking the start of construction this month.

NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Health, the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC today turned the first sod on the site of the new six-storey building and released fly-through vision to give the community a sneak peak at the completed project.

Mrs Maclaren-Jones also announced the appointment of Richard Crookes Construction as the main works contractor.

The new hospital will include a new emergency department, operating theatre and medical imaging department, more inpatient beds and intensive care services, enhanced paediatric services and additional 114 parking spaces.

“True to our word, the NSW Government is improving and expanding health services on the Central Coast to provide the community with access to world class healthcare close to home,” Mrs Maclaren-Jones said.

“Our Government has invested well over half a billion dollars into public healthcare on the Central Coast in the past five years, ensuring the region’s health services can meet the challenges of a growing, ageing and diverse community.”

Member for Terrigal, Adam Crouch, welcomed the milestone for Wyong.

“We know that 75,500 extra people will call the Central Coast home between 2016 and 2036, and this redevelopment provides the health services our growing region needs and deserves,” Mr Crouch said.

“With this investment we are also supporting the transformation of the Coast into a precinct for health, research, innovation and education which will provide jobs and economic growth.”

The Wyong Hospital redevelopment is part of a network of health services the NSW Government is delivering to the Central Coast community. This includes the soon-to-be-completed $348 million redevelopment of Gosford Hospital and the new Hamlyn Terrace and Toukley Ambulance stations delivered under the $122 million Rural Ambulance Infrastructure Reconfiguration program.
The NSW Government is also contributing $20 million towards the development of the Central Coast Medical School and Research Institute.

Liberal Member of the NSW Upper House for the Central Coast, Taylor Martin, announced the start of the construction of the Central Coast Medical School and Research Institute in September.

“The record investment in health infrastructure on the Central Coast will open up additional employment opportunities for locals, especially for doctors and nurses,” Mr Martin said.

The Wyong Hospital redevelopment is scheduled to be completed in early 2022.

For more information see the project website at: www.gwhr.health.nsw.gov.au.

To view the fly-through vision click here.

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