



Mike Baird MP
Premier of NSW
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 20 June 2014

**NSW GOVERNMENT PRESSES “GO” ON MASSIVE
GOSFORD HOSPITAL UPGRADE**

NSW Premier Mike Baird and Health Minister Jillian Skinner today visited the Central Coast to celebrate an investment of almost \$3 million to begin the major redevelopment of Gosford Hospital – a project anticipated to be worth more than \$350 million.

Mr Baird and Mrs Skinner were joined by Minister for the Central Coast Rob Stokes and Gosford MP Chris Holstein to mark the NSW Government’s commitment to the Gosford Hospital upgrade and the funding announcement in the 2014-15 Budget.

Mr Baird said the project will transform the way health care is delivered to the Central Coast community.

“The redevelopment of Gosford Hospital is a priority for the NSW Government and \$2.7 million has been allocated to get the project going this year,” Mr Baird said.

“This major upgrade will deliver a new emergency department, intensive care and high dependency unit expansion, improved operating theatres, maternity services and more inpatient beds for medical, acute and sub-acute services.

“Clinical and non-clinical support services and car parking will also be boosted.

“Enabling works for the redevelopment will begin on site later this year and planning is scheduled for completion in March 2015.

“The community has been crying out for enhanced health services and the NSW Liberals & Nationals have listened. The new Gosford Hospital will be a facility the people of the Central Coast can be proud of,” Mr Baird said.

Gosford Hospital was built in 1945 and the last major upgrade was in 2006.

In 2012/13 there were 57,964 presentations to Gosford’s emergency department with close to 59,000 presentations in 2013/14. It is consistently among the 10 busiest emergency departments in NSW.

Mrs Skinner said the \$2.7 million allocation follows the \$1.8 million investment made by the NSW Government last December to plan the major upgrade of both Gosford and Wyong hospitals.

“This is a government that plans ahead and gets on with the job of delivering better health care for communities across the state,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Gosford Hospital delivers fantastic care and comfort to patients from across the region but it is a tired facility in need of a major upgrade.

“The Central Coast continues to grow and we want Gosford Hospital to be able to care for this community well into the future, which is why this redevelopment is vital.

“Gosford Hospital has cared for the Central Coast for decades and now it is time for the NSW Government to care for Gosford Hospital.”

Mrs Skinner said about 250 clinicians and community members have been involved in the planning process to inform the size and scope of the redevelopment, with further consultation to come.

“Finally clinicians at Gosford will be able to deliver their first-class care in a first-class facility,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Bricks and mortar are incredibly important but a hospital is nothing without the soul inside – its clinicians. I thank Gosford Hospital’s doctors, nurses and other staff who have been delivering great care in trying conditions.”

Mr Stokes welcomed the announcement, saying it is part of a suite of good news for the Central Coast.

“In addition to the \$2.7 million allocated for Gosford Hospital, \$1.3 million will be invested to build a new Satellite Dialysis and Training Unit on the Long Jetty Health Care Centre site which will ensure more patients can be treated closer to home,” Mr Stokes said.

“Additionally \$500,000 will be spent to continue the planning for the Wyong Hospital upgrade and more than \$800,000 will be used to support six new Clinical Nurse/Midwife educators for the region.”

Mr Holstein said Gosford Hospital is at the very heart of the Central Coast community.

“Gosford Hospital is a place where we have welcomed our babies and said goodbye to our loved ones. It deserves attention and TLC which is why I’m so pleased to see the NSW Government investing in this great facility,” Mr Holstein said.

“This is a momentous occasion for Gosford Hospital and its clinicians – I thank them for the incredible work they do.

“More milestones will be marked on this project over the coming year and I look forward to celebrating them with the community,” Mr Holstein said.

MEDIA:

Imre Salusinszky (Premier) – 0432 535 737
Samantha Lo Blanco (Minister Skinner) - 0417 617 056