



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR AMBULANCE BOOST FOR KIAMA

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Kiama MP Gareth Ward today announced a re-elected Baird Government will invest about \$5 million to relocate and upgrade the Kiama ambulance station.

Mrs Skinner said the Baird Government is committed to detailed planning and work on Kiama ambulance station and it will begin in the next term.

“The major redevelopment of Kiama ambulance station is a long-awaited project and I’m proud the Baird Government will deliver it if re-elected,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Paramedics are one of the most trusted professions and I believe they deserve the very best resources at their fingertips. A state-of-the-art station will benefit them greatly and ensure the enhanced delivery of first-class patient care.

“I have the utmost respect for the state’s paramedics who undertake extraordinary work in what can be extraordinary circumstances. They deserve the very best and the Baird Government will deliver it.”

Mrs Skinner said today’s announcement forms part of a program which is upgrading rural and regional ambulance stations across the state, including Berry, Basin View, Wagga Wagga and Bathurst.

“During its 16 years in government, Labor did nothing to future-proof our ambulance services. By contrast, the NSW Liberals & Nationals will continue to invest in NSW Ambulance infrastructure and our professional paramedics, who deliver expert, first-class care for patients.”

Mr Ward welcomed the announcement saying he has campaigned tirelessly for the upgrade and relocation of Kiama ambulance station.

“This project has been on my agenda – as well as the community’s - for many years and I’m pleased the Baird Government has heard our call and will deliver this upgrade,” Mr Ward said.

“Labor was all talk and no action on this project. Even the ex-Labor MP for Kiama called for but never delivered the relocation and upgrade of this ambulance station.

“Only the Baird Government can be trusted to deliver the necessary support to the local paramedics.”

In the last year alone, the Baird Government has increased the NSW Ambulance budget by \$30 million to a record \$753 million. Paramedic numbers have increased by 205 staff to 3,435 paramedics since the March 2011 election (full-time equivalent as at June 2014).

Baird Government record of delivery in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven:

- Recruited an additional 124 FTE nurses and 73 FTE doctors to work in Illawarra-Shoalhaven hospitals since the election;
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District hospitals performed 98 per cent of elective surgeries on time (July-Sept 2014) compared to 90 per cent under Labor (July-Sept 2010);
- 10 percentage point increase in patients leaving Illawarra-Shoalhaven hospital emergency departments in four hours (67 percentage point in July-Sept 2014 vs 57 percentage point in July-Sept 2010);
- Boosted the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District budget this year by six per cent to a record \$779 million. The Illawarra Shoalhaven has had one of the highest budget increases among the state's 15 Local Health Districts;
- Invested \$106 million for the major redevelopment of Wollongong Hospital;
- Committed \$30.2 million to deliver a multi-storey car park at Wollongong Hospital;
- Allocated \$10 million in planning for the upgrade of Shellharbour, Kiama and Port Kembla hospitals, including \$6.7 million for a new ambulatory care facility at Shellharbour;
- Delivered the \$30.2 million Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre – a first for the region;
- Expanded the parking at the Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre;
- Delivered the \$14 million Illawarra Regional Cancer Care Centre;
- Reformed aeromedical services for the Illawarra, creating one region to better service local patients and ensure faster response times, including an additional 11.5 FTE retrieval doctors and 18 new FTE paramedics to enhance the service
- Pre-election commitments including:
 - \$5 million for a new ambulance station for Berry
 - \$5 million for a second linear accelerator at the Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre
 - About \$5 million for a new ambulance station for Kiama
 - Up to \$8 million for a new multi-storey car park at Shoalhaven Hospital

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