



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Wednesday 11 February 2015

### **TOP DAY FOR WAGGA WAGGA: \$170 MILLION ANNOUNCED TO FINALISE MAJOR HOSPITAL UPGRADE**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire today announced a re-elected NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will invest an additional \$170 million to finalise the major redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital.

Mrs Skinner and Mr Maguire made the announcement during a ‘topping out’ ceremony on the roof of the new seven-storey acute services building - the centrepiece of the \$282.1 million stage one and two redevelopment.

“The finalisation of the major rebuild of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital represents the realisation of a dream for clinicians and the local community,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Work on the \$170 million stage three project will begin in the next term of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government, if we are re-elected on March 28.

“The stage three upgrade will deliver enhanced sub-acute services including rehabilitation, ambulatory care services, renal dialysis, BreastScreen services, allied health services, primary and community health, community mental health and additional dental care services.”

When the three stages are complete, more than \$450 million will have been invested in the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital redevelopment.

Mrs Skinner said today’s rooftop ceremony is a building tradition which marks the completion of the highest point of construction.

“Standing on the roof of the new acute services building demonstrates this project is powering ahead,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Each time I visit this redevelopment I’m astounded by its size. I’m told it is the biggest thing happening in the Riverina right now and I’m pleased the NSW Liberals & Nationals are delivering it - and more.”

Mr Maguire said the announcement marks a record investment in health services for Wagga Wagga and will be a dream come true for clinical staff and the community.

“The investment the NSW Liberals & Nationals are making to secure the health of our region is unprecedented,” Mr Maguire said.

“I have joined our clinicians and community to fight for the complete redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and I could not be prouder that the NSW Liberals & Nationals will deliver it.

“Wagga Wagga deserves a world-class, state-of-the-art hospital and that is exactly what we will have under the NSW Liberals & Nationals.

“Our region is being transformed into a prominent health hub and this investment further cements the vital role Wagga Wagga plays in the delivery of quality health care,” he said.

Construction of the current redevelopment is on track for services to commence in early 2016, with the completion of the new entry forecourt and car park due in mid-2017.

The expansion of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital renal dialysis unit is also on track to enable commencement of services in April 2015.

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