



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 3 March 2015

MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PARKING BOOST FOR SOUTH COAST PATIENTS

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and local MPs Shelley Hancock (South Coast) and Gareth Ward (Kiama) today announced a re-elected Baird Government will upgrade parking at Shoalhaven Hospital.

Mrs Skinner said up to \$8 million will be allocated for a new car park to assist patients, staff and visitors at Shoalhaven Hospital.

Planning and work on the project will begin in the next term of the Baird Government if it is re-elected on March 28.

“Car parking is an issue at Shoalhaven Hospital, which is why a new car park is essential to ease the stress felt by both patients and staff,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Planning is underway to determine the scope and size of the upgrade but it is anticipated to increase parking by about 220 spaces and be a multi-storey development.

“Nearly every patient survey identifies the lack of parking as a major issue and the Baird Government is getting on with the job of fixing this problem for patients, staff and visitors.”

Ms Hancock welcomed the announcement saying the project will benefit communities across the south coast.

“I’ve been advocating for an improvement to car parking at Shoalhaven Hospital for many years and I’m pleased to see the Baird Government digging deep to improve this service,” Ms Hancock said.

“Visiting hospital can be a joyous or challenging time and today’s announcement will go a long way to alleviating pressure for patients attending Shoalhaven Hospital.”

Mr Ward said the announcement demonstrates the Baird Government’s commitment to enhancing health services for the benefit of patients and hospital staff.

“It’s clear the car park at Shoalhaven Hospital is in need of enhancement. I’m pleased the government has heard our call for an upgrade and this investment will ensure patients and their loved ones are afforded proper access to parking facilities well into the future,” Mr Ward said.

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 Shoalhaven Hospital and the 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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