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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW ERA FOR CENTRAL COAST HEALTH CARE: \$200 MILLION UPGRADE FOR WYONG HOSPITAL

Minister for the Central Coast Rob Stokes today announced a re-elected Baird Government will invest \$200 million in the major redevelopment of Wyong Hospital, taking the total health infrastructure spend on the Central Coast to almost \$600 million.

Mr Stokes said the redevelopment will be a game-changer for Central Coast patients and work will begin in the next term of the Baird Government.

“For 16 years, Labor neglected the health of communities across the Central Coast by failing to invest in much-needed hospital upgrades,” Mr Stokes said.

“This \$200 million investment will transform Wyong Hospital and usher in a new era of modern health services for patients across the Central Coast. Only the Baird Government can be trusted to deliver this project.

“It will complement the biggest project underway on the Central Coast - the Baird Government’s \$368 million major upgrade of Gosford Hospital.”

The redevelopment of Wyong Hospital will include additional acute inpatient and intensive care unit beds, as well as additional emergency department, operating theatres, outpatient and ambulatory space. It will also include additional mental health beds.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said the \$200 million investment follows the \$1.3 million committed to plan the major upgrade of Wyong Hospital.

“When I visited the Central Coast to announce planning money for upgrades, I said it would be to develop a comprehensive plan across both Gosford and Wyong hospitals,” Mrs Skinner said.

“I was dismayed by Labor’s haphazard approach where bits and pieces of hospitals were revamped without any consideration for what was needed across the Gosford and Wyong hospital campuses.

“The funding for both these hospitals has taken into account the views of many wonderful and committed clinicians on the Central Coast and I look forward to visiting them if we are re-elected on March 28.”

Liberal candidate for Wyong Sandra Kerr said: “This funding will greatly benefit the almost 60,000 patients who attend the emergency department and the more than 3,700 patients who receive elective surgery at Wyong Hospital every year.”

Liberal candidate for The Entrance Michael Sharpe said: “Wyong Hospital has been caring for its community for decades and now it’s time for the Baird Government to show this fantastic facility and its wonderful staff some TLC.”

Liberal candidate for Terrigal Adam Crouch said: “The major upgrade of Wyong Hospital will have benefits for patients right across the Central Coast.”

Gosford MP Chris Holstein said: “When the Baird Government makes a promise, it delivers. This could not be clearer than at Gosford where work is already underway on a \$368 million redevelopment of Gosford Hospital.”

The NSW Liberals & Nationals have a strong record of delivery on the Central Coast and have:

- Boosted the Central Coast Local Health District budget this year by 6.4 per cent to a record \$693 million. The Central Coast has had one of the highest budget increases among the State’s 15 Local Health Districts.
- Recruited an additional 315 (FTE) nurses to work in Central Coast hospitals since the election;
- Supported Central Coast Local Health District hospitals to perform 99 per cent of elective surgeries on time (Oct-Dec 2014) compared to 94 per cent under Labor (Oct-Dec 2010).
- Delivered a 14 per cent increase in patients leaving Central Coast hospital emergency departments in four hours (65 per cent in Oct-Dec 2014 v 51 per cent in Oct-Dec 2010).
- Invested \$2.7 million this year to start work on the \$368 million Gosford Hospital upgrade;
- Committed \$1.3 million to plan the major redevelopment at Wyong Hospital;
- Allocated \$3.5 million to fund a 20-chair satellite renal dialysis unit at Long Jetty Health Care Centre;
- Opened the \$38.6 million Central Coast Cancer Centre - a first for the region;
- Opened the \$11.6 million Woy Woy Hospital rehabilitation unit;
- Started work on a new short stay unit for Gosford Hospital and a new short stay unit and urgent care centre at Wyong Hospital; and
- Committed \$120 million over four years to enable Local Health Districts, including the Central Coast, to implement integrated care models. The Central Coast Local Health District has been nominated as an integrated care demonstrator site.

If re-elected, the Baird Government will make a record investment of more than \$5 billion in infrastructure to make our health system the strongest in the country – which will result in the total health infrastructure spend reaching almost \$10 billion over an eight year period.

Put simply, the Baird Government will spend more in eight years than Labor spent in the entire 16 years it was in government.

New hospital projects including the new Rouse Hill Hospital, the redevelopment of Campbelltown Hospital and an increase in paediatric capacity in South West Sydney will all be funded from the Rebuilding NSW Hospitals Fund and are on top of the planned \$5 billion infrastructure program, which includes the \$200 million investment in Wyong Hospital announced today.

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