



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday 9 March 2015

#### **NEW AMBULANCE STATION FOR COOLAMON**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Nationals MP and candidate for Cootamundra Katrina Hodgkinson today announced \$1.5 million for a new ambulance station at Coolamon and a retention and potential expansion of current services at Ardlethan.

“NSW Ambulance undertook extensive community consultation about the need for ambulance services in the Coolamon Shire with about 1,700 people who contributed their views,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The result of this work has been the Coolamon Shire Out Of Hospital Health Services Plan, which outlines the need for a new station at Coolamon.

“Existing ambulance services provided at Ardlethan will be retained, with minor capital upgrades to take place and also the potential to add a supplementary volunteer service in future.

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

Ms Hodgkinson welcomed the announcement saying it will enhance local health services and give certainty to the community.

“The Baird Government is committed to supporting paramedics and providing them with the first-class resources they need to deliver their first-class care,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“I’m pleased to see the community has been so involved in this process because ultimately it has led to the best outcome.

“What we will have is enhanced ambulance services for the region, which is good news for patients and their loved ones.

“Subject to community endorsement, further planning and construction will commence on this new \$1.5 million ambulance station if the Baird Government is re-elected on March 28.”

In the last year alone, the NSW 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).

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