



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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BAIRD GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR BOOST FOR BULLI HOSPITAL UPGRADE

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Minister for the Illawarra John Ajaka today announced a re-elected Baird Government will commit a total of almost \$34 million toward the transformation of Bulli Hospital into the Aged Care Centre of Excellence.

Mrs Skinner and Mr Ajaka were joined by Heathcote MP Lee Evans and Liberal candidate for Keira Philip Clifford for the announcement at Bulli Hospital today.

Health's total commitment of \$19.3 million in funding is in addition to the \$14.5 million from the Restart Illawarra Infrastructure Fund allocated for the project.

"This is an exciting project for the Illawarra and one which ensures Bulli will continue to play an important role in caring for its community well into the future," Mrs Skinner said.

"The project will see the construction of a new facility opposite the existing Bulli Hospital to transform the site into a centre of excellence, which will deliver contemporary integrated health care for its patients.

"The Aged Care Centre of Excellence will have countless benefits for the community, including reducing pressure on the Wollongong Hospital emergency department through tailored health care."

It is anticipated the project will include:

- A Primary Health Care Centre;
- Inpatient and aged care facilities (about 60 beds);
- Development of on-site clinical support services (including medical imaging, pathology and pharmacy);
- Provision of a range of non-clinical support services (including food and nutrition, cleaning, asset maintenance);
- Transitional aged care service.

It is expected a 60-bed high care residential aged care facility will be co-located on site, to be funded by \$10.8 million from the Illawarra Retirement Trust.

Mr Ajaka said the role of Bulli Hospital has been redefined so it can best meet the needs of the local community.

"The Restart Illawarra Fund is strengthening services across our region and the Aged Care Centre of Excellence is a perfect example of how this funding will benefit our whole community," Mr Ajaka said.

"I am delighted to be here with the Health Minister demonstrating the Baird Government's ongoing commitment to the health of the region.

“Having been born at Bulli Hospital myself, I know how close it is to the hearts of Illawarra residents and have been proud to oversee its rejuvenation thanks to this government’s Restart Illawarra fund.

“The Baird Government’s commitment to the Illawarra is clear. The \$106 million upgrade of Wollongong Hospital is well underway and now additional funding is flowing to Bulli.”

Mr Evans said the announcement is a win for the local community and a project he has championed for many years.

“The Baird Government is committed to ensuring regional patients have access to quality care closer to home and this improvement in aged care services will benefit patients and carers right across our region,” Mr Evans said.

“This project would provide an additional 40 to 60 new jobs in the operation of the new facility as well as construction jobs as works get underway.

“I’ve campaigned for this project alongside clinicians and the community and am pleased to see the Baird Government committing to progress it if we are re-elected on March 28.”

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