



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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BAIRD GOVERNMENT HITS “GO” ON NEW MAITLAND HOSPITAL

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Liberal candidate for Maitland Steve Thomson today announced a re-elected Baird Government will begin construction on the new Maitland Hospital project in its second term.

Mrs Skinner said \$25 million will be invested from the Hunter Infrastructure & Investment Fund to fast-track the start of construction of the new Maitland Hospital, which is expected to cost more than \$400 million.

This injection of funds means the local community will see progress on the Metford site of the new hospital in the next term of a re-elected Baird Government.

“To say the new Maitland Hospital will be a game-changer for this region doesn’t even scratch the surface of how important this project is. It will transform health care for this rapidly growing region,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The new hospital will be located on a site at Metford that is six times larger than the existing Maitland Hospital and include an expanded emergency department, additional inpatient beds, cancer services and improved mental health services, among other enhancements.

“Under a re-elected Baird Government, all public patients will have access to first-class, free health care at the new Maitland Hospital,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The Baird Government has made its commitment to delivering a new hospital for Maitland clear – we chose the site, started the remediation, progressed the master-planning and have worked with clinicians and the community to determine the clinical services needed.

“Today’s announcement builds on these strong foundations and shows only the Baird Government can be trusted to deliver a new hospital for Maitland.

“Labor neglected this region for 16 years and sat on its hands as Maitland outgrew its current hospital. Labor has not committed a cent to the future of health care for this region.”

Mrs Skinner said a decision about procurement for the hospital will be made following the submission of the final business case to NSW Treasury mid-year.

“Further planning will determine the number of beds and treatment spaces required at the new hospital but the community can rest assured it will be a significant enhancement on what is provided at the current Maitland Hospital.”

Mr Thomson said today is a red-letter day for the people of Maitland and surrounding communities.

“The Baird Government has a clear track record of delivering world-class hospital upgrades right across the state and the new Maitland Hospital will be no different,” Mr Thomson said.

“I have no doubt it will also act as a magnet to attract quality health professionals to our region – this is fantastic news for patients now and decades into the future.

“The new hospital will offer a higher level of services than the current Maitland Hospital and will ensure the community can receive more complex acute clinical care closer to home without travelling to Newcastle or out of the area.”

Acute clinical services will transfer from the current Maitland Hospital to the new hospital when it opens. Although no decision has been made about future uses of the current Maitland Hospital, there is an option for it to be used for complementary health purposes.

More than \$5 million will be invested to enhance services at Kurri Kurri Hospital and bed capacity at Maitland Hospital to ensure local patients have access to timely, quality health care until the new hospital is opened.

While at the Metford site, Mrs Skinner and Mr Thomson also committed \$3.8 million for a new ambulance station for the region.

Mrs Skinner said planning and work would commence on the new station in the next term if the Baird Government is re-elected.

“This \$3.8 million investment will enhance the service provided by the current 42-year-old Rutherford station and give paramedics a modern base from which to undertake their life-saving work.

“A number of options will be considered for the new station, including it collocating with the new Maitland Hospital on the Metford site or a significant upgrade of the current Rutherford station.”

Mr Thomson said: “I have the utmost respect for our local paramedics who deliver incredible care and comfort to patients in challenging conditions. This investment demonstrates the Baird Government is committed to giving paramedics the support they need to care for our community.”

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