

The Hon Ryan Park MP

Minister for Health
 Minister for Regional Health
 Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast



Ref: Q24/187

Ms Helen Minnican
 Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
 NSW Parliament
 LAClerk@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Batemans Bay Hospital Emergency Department Closure

Dear Ms Minnican

I refer to the petition lodged by the Hon Mark Speakman MP, on behalf of various petitioners relating to the Batemans Bay Hospital Emergency Department.

I would note firstly that the Clinical Services Plan that highlighted the eventual closure of Batemans Bay Hospital, once the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital came on line, was proposed, and approved by the previous Coalition Government.

I would also say that a commitment to maintain Batemans Bay Emergency Department is to walk away from a level 4 health service at the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital. As a number of credible clinicians, planners and health experts have identified, establishing a sufficient level of clinically appropriate staff and patients at the new level 4 hospital to make it clinically safe and functionally operational, is the highest priority.

The Minns Labor Government is getting on with the job of delivering the new Level 4 Eurobodalla Regional Hospital for people of Southern NSW by investing \$330 million in this exciting new health facility. This includes an additional \$70m I announced as part of the 24/25 NSW Budget. We're making this investment as the previous Coalition Government didn't set aside adequate funding to ensure the hospital can be delivered and stay on-track.

The new hospital will provide a higher level and wider range of specialist health services than the current Batemans Bay and Moruya Hospitals combined, allowing more patients to be treated closer to home rather than being transferred out of the region to receive complex care.

As someone who has long advocated for investments in regional health facilities, I know that a regional Level 4 Hospital will save lives and allow more people to receive critical care closer to home. This new hospital will deliver the biggest Emergency Department and first Intensive Care Unit for the Eurobodalla region.

Recently, I announced construction for the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital has been given the green light, with the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) approved for the project. I'm thrilled the community is another step closer to accessing a brand-new hospital and improved health services. Work to prepare the site for main works will soon get underway, with construction of the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital expected to start in mid-2024.

The location of the new Eurobodalla Hospital is central to the whole of the Eurobodalla Shire and will receive patients in the care of NSW Ambulance clinicians operating in the region. It will be complemented by the new Medicare Urgent Care Centre operating since December 2023 from the existing Batemans Bay Hospital site.

The NSW Government is also investing \$20 million in the new Batemans Bay Community Health facility, which will open on the site of the Batemans Bay Hospital prior to hospital services transitioning to the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital.

Feedback from the community has been invaluable in shaping Batemans Bay Community Health Service including creating connections to surrounding nature and green spaces, incorporating design elements identified by local Aboriginal community members, and improving accessibility for families, elderly people and people with specialist needs and abilities.

The new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital and new Community Health facility, and recently opened Urgent Care Centre will work together to provide safe, equitable and efficient healthcare to everyone in the Eurobodalla from Narooma to Batemans Bay.

For more information, please contact Brad Scotcher, General Manager, Coastal Network, Southern NSW Local Health District, at bradley.scotcher@health.nsw.gov.au or on 0427 429 082.

Yours sincerely



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