



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
 Minister for Health
 Minister for Medical Research



Ms Helen Minnican
 Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
 Parliament House
 Macquarie Street
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our ref: P18/729

Dear Ms Minnican

I refer to the petition lodged by The Hon Andrew Constance MP, Member for Bega, seeking a new regional hospital in the Eurobodalla Shire that will provide medical services equal to the regional and base hospitals within the Southern NSW Local Health District, and improvement of health services in the Eurobodalla Shire during the planning and construction process.

I acknowledge the concerns of the signatories for the health of their community, and welcome the opportunity to respond.

On 31 October 2018, The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW, and the Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, announced a \$150 million investment to build a new single hospital in the Eurobodalla. The Premier announced that an appropriate site was yet to be identified. Southern NSW Local Health District and Health Infrastructure will partner with the community for the best outcome.

During the Premier's announcement, Minister Constance acknowledged the work of Dr Michael Holland and One New Eurobodalla hospital (ONE) movement, and the collection of 3000 signatures in a matter of weeks, showing the community's view and support for a new hospital.

I am advised that the new Eurobodalla Health Service Clinical Services Plan is in development and will assess health services required for the Eurobodalla communities, develop models of care, and identify workforce requirements. Community consultation has occurred and will continue through all stages of location, planning and construction of the new health service.

A transition plan is also being developed as part of the planning process for the new hospital. This will consider any interim infrastructure improvements that may be required.

I am advised that additional staffing levels are being reviewed and a planning process is under way to ensure resulting staffing levels are balanced. Staffing of the Eurobodalla emergency department has been boosted recently with 1.5 Emergency Department specialists recently recruited. Recruitment is under way for an extra doctor.

The NSW Government continues to invest in our regional hospitals and this investment will significantly improve healthcare services for residents of the south coast. I acknowledge and thank the residents of the Eurobodalla for taking the time to register their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Brad Hazzard MP

17 DEC 2018