



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

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

Our ref: Q21/984

Dear Ms Minnican

Petition – Delivery of Level 4 Eurobodalla Hospital, oncology and healthcare services

I refer to the petition lodged by Ryan Park, MP, Member for Keira, on behalf of certain residents of the Eurobodalla Shire regarding delivery of a Level 4 Eurobodalla hospital, oncology and healthcare services.

I acknowledge the concerns of the signatories for the health of their community, and welcome the opportunity to provide information on the importance of appropriate healthcare services for residents in the Eurobodalla.

The NSW Government will commence construction of the new \$260 million Eurobodalla Health Service during this term of Government, and the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital is anticipated to be commissioned in 2025.

On 27 November 2021, the Government announced it will invest an extra \$60 million (a total investment of \$260 million) to deliver a new Eurobodalla Health Service. The new facility will deliver complex clinical services locally, including emergency medicine, critical care and maternity. These services will progress to a Level 4 role delineation as workforce and models of care are developed.

The new Eurobodalla Health Service will be larger than the current combined services of Moruya and Batemans Bay Hospitals, including 17 emergency department spaces to meet projected demand to 2031.

At the time of completion of the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital, some of the clinical services will remain at Level 3. Southern NSW Local Health District will work towards increasing its clinical services to a Level 4 delineation over time, developing the workforce and contemporary models of care needed to support safe and more complex health services to the local community.

In order to reach a role delineation Level 4 in most services, the intensive care service would need to be developed from the existing Level 3 close observation unit. For intensive care services to move to a role delineation Level 4, 24 hour on-site access to a medical officer competent in Advanced Life Support is required.

NSW Health follows the nationally supported planning approach to ensure radiotherapy services are delivered through an integrated and multidisciplinary model. To provide the best care, these services must be carefully planned and need concentration in specialised, high volume centres of excellence. Radiotherapy centres must also be linked to several sub-specialties and be delivered by health professionals with specialised skills including medical, technical, nursing and allied health professionals.

I am advised the District will continue to monitor opportunities to enhance cancer services in the region and carefully consider their appropriateness, safety and sustainability. A sustainable service proposal must demonstrate sufficient demand to ensure a safe and quality service as well as consider the ability to recruit and retain an appropriate workforce.

Radiotherapy services are currently available to South Coast residents at The Canberra Hospital, ICON (a private radiation therapy service in Canberra) and the Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre in Nowra.

I thank the petition signatories for taking the time to register their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



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

22 DEC 2021