

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE THAN HALF A BILLION DOLLARS FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH FACILITIES

Record investment of more than \$550 million will be delivered in the coming year to continue the NSW Government's unprecedented health capital works program.

Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard said the regional building boom was not only bringing much needed health facilities to country NSW, but was also generating thousands of construction and health-related jobs in local communities.

"In many areas the local health facilities are a significant employer as well as bringing services which are fundamental to the health and wellbeing of the local community.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government understands this and we're building for the long term sustainability of our regional and rural communities. We are committed to ensuring all communities receive their fair share."

Deputy Premier and Minister for regional NSW, John Barilaro, said health facilities in regional towns and cities will see a construction boom under the 2017-18 State Budget.

"We want to see our regional communities to continue to grow and the best way to do that is to build world-class health services that create jobs and deliver vital services."

Highlights of the NSW Government's 2017-18 health capital works investment across rural and regional NSW include:

- More than \$190 million to continue the investment in Armidale, Ballina, Broken Hill, Bulli, Dubbo, Grafton, John Hunter, Lismore, Manning, Muswellbrook, Parkes and Forbes, Port Macquarie, Singleton and Wagga Wagga hospitals
- More than \$112 million to continue the Gosford Hospital redevelopment (including \$25 million for the carpark)
- Nearly \$48 million towards the commencement of the redevelopment of rural and regional hospitals at Albury, Coffs Harbour, Cooma, Goulburn, Inverell, Lismore, Shellharbour, Wagga Wagga Stage 3 and Wyong
- More than \$86 million towards building new hospitals at Macksville, Maitland, Mudgee and Tweed
- Continuing the investment in developing Multipurpose Services to provide health and aged care services for small and remote rural communities
- Planning for staged development at Griffith Hospital
- Planning for future investment in Tumut Hospital
- \$35 million to continue the Rural Ambulance Infrastructure Reconfiguration program to deliver new, upgraded or rebuilt ambulance stations in regional and rural areas

