

# LUKE FOLEY AND LABOR

## A NEW APPROACH FOR NSW



LUKE FOLEY | NSW LABOR LEADER  
WALT SECORD | SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH

### MEDIA RELEASE

*Thursday March 12, 2015*

#### **LABOR RESERVES \$351 MILLION TO BUILD THE NEPEAN HOSPITAL OF THE FUTURE – WITHOUT PRIVATISING ELECTRICITY**

A Foley Labor Government will invest \$351 million to redevelop Nepean Hospital without privatising the electricity network.

Labor's plan will deliver the much-awaited Stage 4 of the hospital's redevelopment – including:

- An enhanced Comprehensive Cancer Centre with chemotherapy, radiation and oncology services;
- Enhanced renal, cardiology and neurology services;
- Up to four new operating theatres;
- An enhanced emergency department;
- A new High Dependency Unit; and
- New and enhanced birthing suites.

An additional \$4 million is allocated for planning works which would begin immediately under a Foley Labor Government.

Luke Foley made the announcement at Nepean Hospital today with Labor Candidates Emma Husar (Penrith), Todd Carney (Mulgoa), Prue Car (Londonderry) and Trish Doyle (Blue Mountains).

Nepean Hospital is the principal referral hospital for the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District. It is already struggling to cope with population demand and \$18 billion in funding cuts to NSW hospitals by the Baird and Abbott governments.

Today, 44 per cent of emergency patients wait more than 4 hours for treatment. This makes it the fourth most overworked hospital in the State.

Labor's \$351 million redevelopment will increase the capacity of the hospital to meet demand. The population of the Local Health District will grow by another 100,000 by 2035.

Labor's funding reservation for Nepean Hospital is out of the \$1.7 billion unlocked for extra health infrastructure as part of the \$10.05 billion infrastructure plan A Better Way.

#### ***Quotes attributable to Labor Leader Luke Foley:***

"Labor will build the Nepean Hospital of tomorrow – without privatising the electricity network.

"We are setting aside \$351 million to complete Stage 4 of the redevelopment, which includes first-class services including a comprehensive cancer centre, new operating theatres and an enhanced emergency department.

**CONT...**

"We are determined to ensure healthcare services in Penrith and the Lower Blue Mountains will cope with the population demand in coming years."

***Quotes attributable to Labor Candidate for Penrith Emma Husar:***

"This is a great announcement by Labor that will be welcomed by families in Penrith. We need to build the healthcare services our community needs now and for the future. I am proud to be part of a Labor team that has the right priorities for Penrith."

***Quotes attributable to Labor Candidate for Londonderry Prue Car:***

"Labor will redevelop Nepean Hospital, recruit more nurses and paramedics and establish two innovative new Nurse Walk-in Centres in Western Sydney to take the pressure off our public hospitals. It's a new approach, it's fully funded – and it doesn't rely on blackmailing the community into accepting the privatisation of electricity."

***Quotes attributable to Labor Candidate for Blue Mountains Trish Doyle:***

"This is fantastic news for the Mountains – and particularly Lower Mountains communities that rely so heavily on Nepean Hospital. Keeping our electricity network in public hands means we keep the billions of dollars in profits these assets generate to pay for nurses, paramedics, teachers and police."

***Quotes attributable to Labor Candidate for Mulgoa Todd Carney:***

"The staff at Nepean Hospital are doing a heroic job in the face of the Liberal Government funding cuts. The fact remains that Nepean has one of the most overworked emergency departments in NSW. Forty-four per cent of patients are forced to wait more than four hours for treatment. A Labor Government will ensure the hospital finally receives the funding support it needs."

**Key Facts**

- Nepean Hospital is one of the most under pressure hospitals in NSW.
- 44 per cent of patients wait more than 4 hours in emergency (up from 34 per cent a year ago).
- There has been an eight per cent growth in emergency attendances over the past year.
- Treatment times are blowout out across all emergency triage categories. For example: patients reporting to emergency with "urgent" conditions such as blood loss and dehydration are forced to wait an average of 30 minutes at Nepean. This compares with 18 minutes across NSW as a whole.
- Link to the latest Bureau of Health Information report on Nepean Hospital: <http://www.bhi.nsw.gov.au/?a=257206>
- The plan for Nepean Hospital is supported by Labor's plans to recruit 840 new nurses and 500 paramedics across the state. The extra nurses will allow Labor to legislate 1:3 nurse to patient ratios for emergency departments and paediatric units
- Labor has already announced major redevelopments at Westmead Hospital, St George Hospital and a new Paediatric Surgical Centre at Campbelltown Hospital.
- Labor's priority funding for health comes on top of existing capital expenditure in the budget – valued at around \$15 billion a year.



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# *Labor's Plan to* **REDEVELOP NEPEAN HOSPITAL** WITHOUT SELLING ELECTRICITY ASSETS

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## **A Foley Labor Government will set aside \$351 million to redevelop Nepean Hospital.**

This will deliver Stage 4 of the hospital's redevelopment – without privatising electricity.

The redevelopment includes an enhanced comprehensive cancer centre with chemotherapy, radiation and oncology services; up to four new operating theatres; new comprehensive clinical centres with enhanced renal, respiratory, cardiology and neurology services; a new High Dependency Unit; new enhanced birthing suites; and an enhanced emergency department with collocated medical imaging.

An additional \$4 million will be allocated for planning which will begin immediately.

The Liberal Government has not committed to this redevelopment.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Nepean Hospital is located at the base of the Blue Mountains in Penrith. It is the principal referral hospital for the local health district and a teaching hospital of the University of Sydney.

It provides high-level inpatient and outpatient care. Services include emergency, surgical, intensive care, coronary care, maternity, gynaecology, neonatal intensive care, diagnostics and outpatient. It was established on the present site in 1956.

It is within the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD).

The Nepean Blue Mountains area is experiencing population growth and demographic change. The population is projected to increase by 28% by 2036 across the NBMLHD. This means there will be 100,000 more people living in the District by 2036 than there were in 2011.

The population is ageing, but there is also projected growth in the younger age groups. Between 2011 and 2036, there will be a 134 per cent growth in the population aged over 70, compared to 104 per cent in NSW. At the same time, there will be a 20 per cent increase in the number of children aged 14 years and under. The Penrith Local Government Area has the highest proportion of pre-school aged children at 7.6 per cent. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Asset Strategic Plan 2013-2023

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## WITHOUT SELLING ELECTRICITY ASSETS

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Consequently the local health district is seeing a significant increase in health care demands. By 2022 it is projected by the Local Health District that there will be a 54 per cent increase in emergency department presentations at Nepean Hospital.

Last year there were nearly 65,000 presentations at the Nepean Hospital Emergency Department. In the last quarter of 2014 (October – December), 44 per cent of patients waited more than four hours for treatment in the emergency department. The median waiting time for non-urgent surgery during that time was 291 days.

The Local Health District predicts increased activity in mental health care, cancer care, operating theatres and renal dialysis.

The increased activity in cancer care will include chemotherapy and radiation oncology. The incidence of cancer is expected to increase by 30 per cent in the NBMLHD to 2021, to 2,179 new cases per year.

There will also be a 15 per cent increase in births at the hospital. Currently the hospital assists with 3700 births a year.

The *Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Asset Strategic Plan 2013-2023* states that enhancements to Nepean Hospital are a priority for the District.

The Local Health District said while the Nepean Hospital Stage 3 Redevelopment Project enhanced capacity for selected services to meet the increased health needs of the area up until 2016, there are still gaps in service provision at Nepean Hospital.

The Stage 3 redevelopment delivered enhanced capacity at the hospital for selected services including intensive care, operating theatres, oral health, ambulatory care, the Medical Assessment Unit and the centralised sterilising services department.

Nepean Hospital will experience a considerable increase in demand and the redevelopment is necessary to enhance the capacity of the hospital to meet that demand.

### **POLICY SCOPE:**

**Labor will set aside \$351 million for the Stage 4 redevelopment of Nepean Hospital. An additional \$4 million will be provided to planning.**

The redevelopment will address the lack of emergency department capacity, the inability of the hospital to meet additional maternity and post natal care requirements, and the insufficient capacity in cardiology, renal, respiratory, neuroscience, aged and palliative care.

Nepean Hospital Stage 4 Redevelopment includes:

- New Comprehensive Clinical Centres including Renal (with enhanced Incentre Renal Dialysis), Respiratory (with a new Respiratory Sleep Lab), Neurology including Stroke, Cardiology and Aged Care;

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- Enhanced Comprehensive Cancer Centre with inpatient, chemotherapy, radiation oncology services and a collocated palliative care/hospice;
- Up to four new operating theatres;
- Enhanced Emergency Department with collocated Medical Imaging;
- New and enhanced Short Stay Units including: Acute Medical (<65years), Cardiology, Paediatrics, Medical Assessment Unit, Emergency Medical Unit, Older People's (OPERA) Unit;
- New High Dependency Unit;
- New and enhanced Birthing Suites, Ante and Post natal Care, Women's Assessment Unit;
- New Ambulatory Medical Zone;
- Enhanced Mental Health Sub-Acute Inpatient Care;
- Enhanced Endoscopy / Procedures capacity; and
- Enhanced sub-acute inpatient care – Rehabilitation, Aged Care and enhanced Allied Health.

The scope of the redevelopment is drawn from the *Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Asset Strategic Plan 2013 to 2023* which was developed in consultation with the Executive, senior managers, clinicians and staff from across the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District.

Final decisions on the project design will be made following the \$4 million planning process.

Labor's funding reservations for Nepean Hospital will be out of the \$1.7 billion Labor has unlocked for health infrastructure announced as part of Labor's plan A Better Way.

In total, Labor's A Better Way unlocks an additional \$10.055 billion of infrastructure investment over the next 10 years. This is on top of the capital expenditure contained within the budget – valued at \$15 billion a year.

Need to know more? What are the Government's or the Coalition's plans for health care? Do you need to know about current spending on health services?

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