

MEDIA RELEASE

Northern Beaches Hospital welcomed as a major boost for the region

2 May 2013

The Mayors of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah councils have welcomed the NSW Government's announcement today that it will design, construct, operate and maintain a 'world-class hospital on Sydney's Northern Beaches'.

SHOROC President and Warringah Mayor, Michael Regan says the new Northern Beaches Hospital is a vital infrastructure priority for the region identified in SHOROC's regional strategy *Shaping Our Future*.

"The councils have been advocating for many years to see the new hospital built at Frenchs Forest and Mona Vale Hospital upgraded and retained in a long term complementary role.

"We congratulate the NSW Government on taking another positive step to fulfil its election commitment to start construction of the new centrally located hospital at Frenchs Forest by 2015 and retain Mona Vale Hospital in a long term complementary role.

We are excited about this great boost for our region; a long-awaited state-of-the art high capacity hospital along with a redeveloped Mona Vale Hospital that will provide for current and future needs of our residents.

"However the missing link that must be resolved is transport.

"While investigations are underway the key questions are when and how will the intersections of Warringah Road with Wakehurst Parkway and Forest Way be upgraded, and the flooding issues on Wakehurst Parkway addressed?

"Concrete plans are needed for a fast and efficient public transport system to serve the hospital and link it to Dee Why, Chatswood and beyond," said Mayor Regan.

SHOROC and its partner councils have developed an integrated plan for addressing the region's transport issues. This includes for the east-west Warringah Road corridor:

- grade separation at the intersections of Warringah Road with Wakehurst Parkway and Forest Way and upgrades to Wakehurst Parkway to provide flood-free access
- Fast public transport links from Dee Why to Chatswood together with park and rides to maximise patronage of public transport.

"We understand planning is currently underway and urge the government to commit to these vital road and public transport upgrades before the end of this year.

"SHOROC and the councils are working closely with the NSW Government on planning the hospital and transport upgrades.

"We look forward to seeing construction start on the Northern Beaches Hospital next year, followed shortly by road and public transport upgrades, so we have the necessary infrastructure ready for when the Hospital begins operation in 2018," said Mayor Regan.

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