

MEDIA RELEASE

NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL STILL CONFINED TO THE WAITING ROOM

The four SHOROC Mayors of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah are calling for the NSW Government to match or better a commitment from the Opposition to build a level 5 hospital on the Northern Beaches of Sydney in its first term should it win the next election.

Plans for a new hospital have been in discussion for a decade with a suitable site selected and properties being purchased to make way for the new health facility.

But over the last 18 months, the Labor Government have distanced themselves from their promise to build the facility, with current Health Minister and Deputy Premier Carmel Tebbutt, refusing to commit to the project.

The Mayors and General Managers of the four SHOROC Councils (Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah) met on Friday with the Deputy Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, Shadow Treasurer Mike Baird and Member for Pittwater Rob Stokes where a firm commitment was made that the Northern Beaches hospital would proceed if the Coalition wins the next election.

“We welcome this commitment from the Shadow Health Minister” said SHOROC President, Warringah Mayor Michael Regan. “It gives us a sense of certainty if the results of the State election favour the coalition. But the reality is that the state election is still over 15 months away. That’s a long wait.”

“Even if they do win and form government, a best case scenario is a five year wait and in that time the residents of the Northern Beaches are living with sub-standard health facilities.”

“It’s great that the coalition have committed to the project and I guess a 5 year wait is better than the indefinite time frame being offered by the Government” said Mayor Regan.

“What we are seeking is a matching commitment from the NSW Government it will commence construction on the level 5 hospital on the Northern Beaches of Sydney in the next couple of years”

“The coalition have recognised that this is a genuine healthcare need – this is basic services that a government should be providing to the growing community and yet we continue to be ignored.”

“Clearly in the past, the Government has also recognised that we need a new hospital – they consulted, they drafted up plans, they even started buying houses to knock down. All we want is for them to re-commit to the project and to get on with the job of providing essential healthcare services to the growing Northern Beaches community”.

The SHOROC Councils will be writing to the NSW Health Minister Carmel Tebbutt to seek a recommitment or reasons why the project has been abandoned.

Ends

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