

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW BUDGET REVEALS FUNDING FOR HOSPITALS & TRANSPORT FOR NORTHERN BEACHES & MOSMAN

7 September 2011

Work will begin on planning and design for the Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest and \$3 million will be spent on significant feasibility studies for a Bus Rapid Transit system for the SHOROC region, the 2011 NSW Budget has revealed.

Exiting health services are also supported with funding allocated for \$1.7 million for construction works to return full maternity services at Mona Vale Hospital and an additional \$55 million to expand the Royal North Shore Hospital.

SHOROC has welcomed the funding outlined in the NSW Government's Budget, saying it was about time funds were spent in the region to improve its ailing health infrastructure and poor public transport system.

"I applaud the NSW Government for allocating the funds to get planning underway on this vital new infrastructure, plus upgrades to our exiting health services," said SHOROC President and Pittwater Mayor Harvey Rose, "Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah councils have all agreed these are the major priorities for our region under SHOROC's regional *Shaping Our Future* strategy and it is great to see the funding allocated to these key projects".

However, Mayor Rose added that it was vital work commenced immediately so that the Government could start construction of the new Hospital and determine the design of a Bus Rapid Transit system for the region as soon as possible.

"It is critical that detailed planning get underway immediately on the planning for the Northern Beaches Hospital in conjunction with key community stakeholders to ensure its construction commences by 2014/15, as the NSW Government has committed. It is also essential that planning for the ongoing role of Mona Vale Hospital take place in conjunction with planning for the new hospital at the Forest "said Mayor Rose.

Mayor Rose said that "these feasibility studies are a great step forward to constructing a public transport system that will deliver real change for our region. It is critical the Government conducts these studies in a reasonable timeframe so that a system can be designed, further funding allocated and construction can commence in the next couple of years."

SHOROC congratulates the local MPs and NSW Government Ministers Jillian Skinner, Brad Hazzard, Mike Baird, Rob Stokes and Jonathan O'Dea as well as Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian and Premier O'Farrell for delivering on commitments made before the election.

"The Mayors of Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah have worked closely with our local MPs on these projects over the years and I congratulate the new NSW Government for allocating the funds to get the ball rolling" said Mayor Rose.

The priorities for the SHOROC region are outlined in *Shaping Our Future*, the regional strategy formally agreed in 2010 by Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah councils, available at www.shoroc.com.

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