



Labor

# LABOR'S PLAN TO REDEVELOP WESTMEAD HOSPITAL *Without* SELLING ELECTRICITY ASSETS

**A Foley Labor Government will provide \$430 million to redevelop the 35 year-old Westmead Hospital - without selling off the State's electricity assets.**

The stage one redevelopment is set at around \$430 million as many of the existing facilities are run-down, temporary or ageing. It also has land constraints and expansion is difficult and expensive.

Under the Liberals, the redevelopment will only proceed if NSW families cave into Mike Baird's blackmail and agree to the sell-off of the electricity network.

Labor's funding does not rely on privatisation.

The Westmead redevelopment complements Labor's infrastructure priorities - A Better Way, which includes an additional \$3 billion for health and education infrastructure to meet the biggest challenge - ensuring that our schools and hospital keep up with our growing population.

Westmead is a specialist tertiary referral hospital for western Sydney's growing population. It is also one of the State's major teaching hospitals for medical and dental. It is an important treatment, training and research hospital.

While it is based in Parramatta, Westmead serves the whole of Western Sydney - and the entire State due to its expertise and size.

The redevelopment is part of Labor's commitment to support and expand health and hospital services where they are needed.

Labor's Westmead redevelopment is about planning and responding to Sydney's projected growth. The most recent population, housing and dwelling projections predict that there will be a population increase in western Sydney of close to one million people by 2031. The Local Health District has estimated that by 2021, the area will need 20 per cent more hospital beds.

Regrettably, Westmead Hospital is already under pressure and has the State's longest emergency department waits with 55 per cent of patients waiting longer than the national benchmark of four hours.

However, it is a hospital under growing pressure, and in 2013-14, the emergency department saw 66,857 patients. It also had 23,954 ambulance presentations and 5,300 births.

Labor's redevelopment is realistic and an achievable plan and occurs without the sale of public assets.

The redevelopment plans are drawn from the Western Sydney Local Health District Asset Strategic Plan 2013-2023. This provides a staged and prioritised fit-out or re-configuration of existing buildings as well as a staged replacement of the buildings in the poorest condition.

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The Labor logo consists of the word "Labor" in white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red square.

More than 1000 clinicians, other staff and community members have been consulted on the redevelopment.

The Stage 1 redevelopment strategy for the Westmead Campus will cost around \$430 million.

It includes:

- A new emergency department;
- Up to 14 new operating theatres;
- Additional beds;
- State-of-the-art pathology services; and
- Co-location of all complex and critical care services.

The redevelopment will improve the treatment of trauma, surgical and critically ill patients.

It will also support the work of the hardworking and talented doctors, nurses and other allied health and support staff at Westmead Hospital.

### **Background:**

Westmead Hospital is a specialised tertiary referral hospital for the Western Sydney area. It is classified as an “A1 – peer group hospital” which means it is a “very large hospital providing a broad range of services, including specialised units at a state or national level”.

Westmead hospital is more than 35 years old and is a 900-bed facility.

It is part of the Westmead medical precinct, which includes Westmead Hospital, Westmead Private Hospital, Cumberland Hospital, The Children’s Hospital Westmead, as well as Westmead Millennium Institute, the Children’s Medical Research Institute, the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, The Children’s Research Network, the Westmead Hospital Research Network and emergency air transport. This is the Australia’s largest bio-medical precinct.

It services a large, growing population area. It has been operating since November 1978 and is the major teaching hospital of the University of Sydney for medical and dental students. It is also a major centre for postgraduate training at the specialist level in all fields. The hospital includes a dental school and the Westmead Millennium Institute, a state-of-the art medical research centre.

While it is based in Parramatta, it serves the whole of Western Sydney – and the State.

It is more than 35 years old and was opened by then-NSW Premier Neville Wran.

However, with so many buildings in poor condition, the hospital is in urgent need of renovations so that it can continue to service Western Sydney effectively.

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The Western Sydney Local Health District Asset Strategic Plan 2013-2023 states that:

“Westmead Hospital was built in the 1970s, and most of it now in poor condition, with poor functionality and infrastructure that is regularly failing. This is leading to high levels of clinical service interruption, inappropriate working environments and excessive maintenance expenditure. Westmead is below the standard expected for a Principal Referral Hospital and the building services infrastructure, roofs and lifts need replacing very soon.”

“The proposed Westmead Redevelopment (and Infrastructure program) represents the first, and urgent investment required by this facility.”

“Westmead Hospital is experiencing significant capacity pressures with occupancy rates above the NSW Department of Health occupancy rate used for service planning of 85 per cent.”

The Local Health District has determined that Westmead does not have the capacity to meet increasing demand between now and 2021.

### **Policy Scope:**

Labor will fund stage one of the redevelopment of Westmead Hospital. This will occur without the sale of the electricity network.

The redevelopment is needed due to an increasing demand for intensive care beds, outpatient procedures, operating theatres, catheter labs, pathology and increasing demand on the emergency department.

The capacity of the hospital needs to keep up with the growing western Sydney population.

The details of the redevelopment are drawn from the Western Sydney Local Health District Asset Strategic Plan 2013-2023 and its comprehensive consultations carried out with more than 20 “Project User Groups” and more than 1,000 people.

The Stage 1 redevelopment strategy for the Westmead Campus (outlined in the Asset Strategic Plan) provides for a staged, prioritised fit-out or reconfiguration of existing buildings that meets immediate capacity issues. It also includes a staged replacement of the buildings in poorest condition and functionality.

The redevelopment will cost around \$430 million and will establish:

- A new acute services building with an emergency department;
- Up to 14 operating theatres;
- More intensive care beds;
- Extra ambulatory care services;
- State-of-the art pathology services; and
- Comprehensive care centres with co-located complex and critical care services including trauma and surgery.

This will improve the treatment of trauma, surgical and critically ill patients. It will also support the work of the hardworking and talented doctors, nurses and other staff at Westmead Hospital.