

27 November 2019

NEW HEALTH SERVICE SET FOR LIGHTNING RIDGE

Local residents can look forward to a new health facility under the NSW Government's \$304 million Multipurpose Health Service program, with work set to start in the New Year.

Scott McLachlan, Chief Executive of the Western NSW Local Health District, said the expanded facility will include a new building adjacent to the current MPS, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020.

"We expect this new service to better meet the needs people living in and around Lightning Ridge by improving patient's experience, and supporting existing health services," Mr McLachlan said.

"Redevelopments such as this provide positive economic and social flow on effects in regional communities. This is especially important during times of drought.

"This infrastructure project will also make a significant contribution to the community's vision towards 2027 to improve medical services for the Walgett Shire."

Mr McLachlan said the upgraded facility will provide a range of integrated services which will particularly benefit residents who are ageing or who are living with chronic conditions.

"The new facility provides much needed space and amenities for Community Health, Far West Medicare Local clinicians, visiting specialist and allied health services. The MPS could also provide a venue for new services or activities to support health and wellbeing," Mr McLachlan said.

In addition to the existing MPS services including a Level 1 emergency department service, 24 hour on call general practitioner (GP) services, acute care beds and aged care residential beds, the expanded Lightning Ridge MPS will deliver:

- improved collaboration between services for patients with complex healthcare needs
- improved Integration with the existing services at Lightning Ridge Health Service, Far West Division of General Practice and visiting specialist services
- more space and amenities for the community health team, Far West Medicare Local clinicians and for visiting specialist and allied health services
- a venue for Lightning Ridge to attract new services or activities

Health Infrastructure has awarded the construction tender to Hutchison Builders – a national company with a strong track record in delivering rural and regional health projects.

There will be no interruption to the current health service while the new facility is under construction.