

New hospital one step closer

Leah Fineran | October 12th, 2009



THE Gold Coast University Hospital is a step closer to reality with the government naming Bovis Lend Lease as managing contractors for stage two of the \$1.76 billion facility.

Bovis became involved in the project in 2007 as building consultants and were managing contractors for stage one which included earthworks.

With the site now prepared, stage two is the construction of the 750-bed hospital which is expected to be completed in 2012.

The finished hospital will include a range of new services such as radiotherapy, neurosciences, a 14-cot neonatal intensive care unit, high level trauma response including helicopter retrieval and rooftop helipad, and cardiac surgery.

Current services will also be expanded in the new hospital including expanded special care nursery, delivery suites and birthing centre, medical assessment unit, seven additional operating theatres with capacity for more, expanded mental health services, emergency department, intensive care unit, pharmacy, radiology, pathology and education.

Health Minister Paul Lucas said more than 100 construction workers are expected on site by the end of the year, with 2300 on site when construction peaks.

"The project will also create more than 9800 local jobs over its life," he said.

"The 19 hectare site is the size of about 28 football fields -- this is a massive investment in health care."

He said the hospital would become the focus of an expanded network of health services for the Gold Coast, including the redeveloped Robina Hospital, the Carrara Health Centre and community based services.

"It will also mean greater health service self-sufficiency for the Gold Coast," he said.