$315 million Illawarra Health Precinct approved

A concept plan for a $315 million private hospital and health precinct with the potential to create more than 2,000 ongoing operational jobs has been approved for the Illawarra.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the development by La Vie Developments Pty Ltd will be located on 10.5 hectares of land at Penrose in the West Dapto land release area, which is expected to generate 16,000 dwellings over the next three decades.

“I have also approved the first of the eight stages of the development – a $38 million surgical centre,” the Minister said.

“The two-storey ‘SurgiCentre’ will accommodate 92 specialists and include six operating theatres, nine intensive care/high dependency beds, 21 recovery beds and 10 overnight hospital beds.”

A total of 50 conditions have been imposed including:

- Design modifications and additional landscaping to minimise visual impact on nearby residents;
- Road upgrades to provide safe access to the site from Avondale Road;
- Operational noise limits; and
- Preparation of a construction management plan including measures for dust, noise, traffic, erosion, waste and stormwater management.

The entire concept plan involves eight stages to be completed over a 15 year period.

Other stages include:

- A radiology and pathology service;
- A hospital and medical centre;
- A stand-alone obstetrics unit;
- A hospital with 303 beds, 12 operating theatres, radiotherapy, oncology and nuclear medicine units and a mortuary;
- Retail shopping outlets;
- Staff and student accommodation with 50 serviced apartments;
- Education facility; and
- An aged and disability centre and seniors accommodation.

Mr Kelly said a helipad also proposed in a future stage would need to meet strict noise criteria if approved.

“Individual approvals will be required for the detailed design and construction of each stage,” the Minister said.
“West Dapto will be the Illawarra’s biggest urban release area over the next 25 years, and a facility such as this will ensure important health services are available to new and existing residents throughout the region.

“This is in line with the priorities of the State Plan and Illawarra Regional Strategy to improve and maintain access to quality healthcare in the face of increasing demand.”