

Friday 9 July 2010

COALITION ANNOUNCES \$2M UPGRADE FOR WARRAGUL EMERGENCY DEPT

The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition if elected in November will provide \$2 million for the redevelopment of the emergency department at Warragul Hospital.

The upgrade of the Warragul Hospital emergency department is urgently needed, as the population in the area is steadily growing and there is a need to ensure that it can cope with the increased workload.

The redevelopment of the emergency department would add five new emergency cubicles as well as staff areas, a relocated entrance and a new emergency bay, enabling the Warragul Hospital to better serve the growing number of patients urgently requiring care at the emergency department.

West Gippsland Healthcare has a lead role in the immediate region, providing a wide range of services and increasingly accepting patients that would have been seen in the emergency department at Casey Hospital. The Warragul emergency department saw more than 17,000 patients in the last year.

The Coalition will make the required \$2 million available on coming to government and any preparatory work completed now will expedite the emergency department project.

Labor has dithered and delayed a decision about the upgrade of Warragul's emergency department.

It is clear the local community needs this upgrade urgently because the emergency department cannot cope with its current infrastructure, and has strongly advocated for the redevelopment of the Warragul emergency department.

The long-term future development of West Gippsland Healthcare will be a focus for a Coalition Government in its first term. Warragul Hospital will need comprehensive redevelopment in the future to bring its buildings up to modern and efficient healthcare design standards. The Coalition will consult with the community about any redevelopment.

The West Gippsland Healthcare Board has requested funding from the Brumby Government but despite the very real need in the community John Brumby has not supported additional resources for the hospital.

Policy

The redevelopment will be funded from the Coalition's \$1 billion health infrastructure fund sourced from electronic gaming machine licence fees.

The Coalition is committed to real and practical solutions to overhaul and improve health care in Victoria.