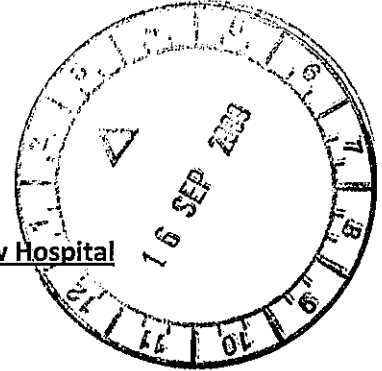




Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
Perth WA 6000

PUBLIC



RE: Petition No. 39- Busselton Hospital- Immediate Construction of a New Hospital

Dear Committee Members,

As member for the South West Region, I agreed to table petition number 39.

To assist the deliberations of the committee, I offer the following information:

1. The Busselton region is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. In 2004 Busselton had a permanent residency of 25,950 and by 2016 the Capes Region is forecast to have a population of 55, 000 people. This rapid growth emphasises the necessity for meaningful investment in Health Services in Busselton.
2. The Busselton demographic is changing with a population over 55 years 123% of the State average.
3. The Busselton Hospital was built in 1978 to support a population of 8 000 people.
4. Under budget forward estimates \$800 000 has been set aside for planning of the redevelopment for the financial years of 2009/10 and 2010/2011. (The previous Government had set aside \$77.4 million to upgrade the existing facility with work supposed to begin this year.)
5. The project has \$40.3 million allocated in forward estimates until the end of forward estimates in 2012/13
6. The project has been allocated the same \$77.4 million in accordance with the previous government promise, with meaningful money not allocated until 2012/13 (34.5 million)
7. Budget papers fail to acknowledge when the remaining \$40 million will be allocated.

The hospital redevelopment is not likely to begin close to five years after it was previously promised with its completion and allocation of required funds still unknown.



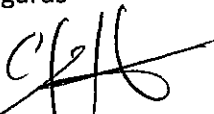
The proposed redevelopment is problematic, studies have shown the site to be a major breeding ground for the endangered Western Ringtail Possum and this redevelopment is likely to have significant impact on them. I have also been told of some onsite building issues.

The whole project will most likely require federal environmental approval and this will take at least 12 months.

A question remains; will the proposed refurbishments, service the needs of the community, and the hospital staff? Or is it only a short term fix which only postpones the problem and does not alleviate it?

I look forward to seeing the results of Committee deliberations. If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

Regards



Hon Colin Holt MLC

MEMBER FOR THE SOUTH WEST REGION