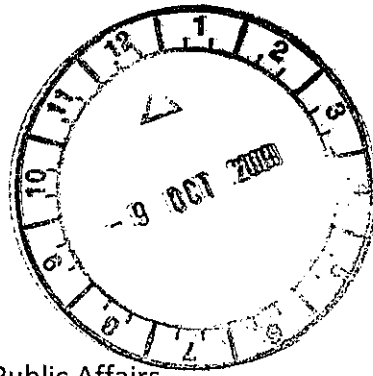


8 October 2009



Troy Buswell M.L.A.
Member for Vasse

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environmental and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Brian,

PETITION 39 – BUSSELTON HOSPITAL – IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOSPITAL

Thank you for providing the opportunity to respond to the submission from Gary Norden and the Busselton Community Action Group.

Please accept the following information in response to your queries.

1. *What are the reasons for the delay in the construction of the new hospital and what is the anticipated completion date?*

I appreciate the concerns raised by the Action Group in relation to the delay of the commencement of construction. This is an unfortunate result of the change in the decision about the hospital site and the current pressure on Government finances. I have received advice from the South West Area Health Service that the existing services are able to meet the needs of the community until the project is finalised.

2. *Will a new hospital be built or the old hospital refurbished?*

I have received advice from the Health Department that as a result of the public private health care model being proposed a wide range of services and construction options are being considered. These options include a combination of new buildings and refurbishment. I am assured that the options will in no way compromise the quality of the end product.

3. *Your comments on the quotations in the submission attributed to yourself regarding the urgency of the new hospital.*

The comments made in 2005 related to the "Clinical Services Consultation report" and highlighted the need for urgent maintenance to

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Legislative Assembly

the hospital and the need for future replacement. A number of the issues raised have since been addressed by the South West Area Health Service, including the refurbishment of the Emergency department. A copy of the article referred to in Mr Norden's submission is attached.

Troy Buswell M.L.A.
Member for Vasse

4. *Will an environmental assessment be conducted?*

The Department of Health has advised that a number of environmental assessments have already been conducted and reported on in relation to the Busselton Hospital site, these include:

- a. The Busselton Hospital Workforce Cancer Analysis Report (Dec 2008)
- b. GHD, Preliminary Site Investigation (Jan 2009)
- c. Significant Fauna and Flora Values – Busselton Hospital Redevelopment Site Report (Aug, 2009)

Additional assessments will be undertaken in relation to the Western Ringtail possum and Environmental mitigation and offsets. These reports will form the basis of a referral to the Commonwealth.

5. *Has the impact of postponing construction of a new hospital on the provision of health services in the area been assessed? Will funding be available to ameliorate those impacts?*

The existing hospital is sufficient to meet the requirements of the community until the Hospital redevelopment is completed. The Emergency Department was provided with a minor upgrade in December 2008 and it is not anticipated that there will be any further need for significant capital works.

I sincerely hope the information provided assists the committee in their enquiries.

Yours sincerely



Hon. Troy Buswell MLA
MEMBER FOR VASSE

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Newspaper article from

South Western Times

Thursday 26 May 2005

Study highlights hospital upgrade

■ BUSSELTON 37/58

A SOUTH West Area Health Service report has identified the Busselton Hospital for redevelopment or replacement.

The service's interim service plan also suggests that private medical services be expanded and a private hospital and integrated aged care services be offered in the Lower South West through the redevelopment of the hospital.

Help for people with mental health problems through supported accommodation has also been recommended.

Vasse MLA Troy Buswell said the plan was a step in the right direction.

"Sadly, the Busselton District Hospital has a history of neglect, despite there being report after report written to suggest it be upgraded urgently," he said.

"The interim service plan reiterates findings in all previous reports and while much of this process has already been done, the outcomes remain the same—the hospital must be redeveloped or replaced." 015