MATT CONLAN MLA | Member for GREATOREX

MINISTER FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

FLYING AHEAD WITH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DEVELOPMENT IN ALICE

22 April 2013

Minister for Central Australia Matt Conlan has welcomed today’s announcement that the Royal Flying Doctor Service has given the green light to a new $6 million development in Alice Springs.

Work on a new townhouse complex in Alice Springs to accommodate RFDS staff will begin in May and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Mr Conlan said the project would inject millions of dollars into the Central Australian economy with the RFDS selecting local company, Probuild NT Pty Ltd, to construct the project.

“I'd like to thank the RFDS for its continued investment in the local economy and on-going commitment to the Northern Territory,” Mr Conlan said at this morning’s official announcement in Alice Springs.

“For the RFDS to issue a select tender which specifies a minimum requirement of 85 per cent local trades and services as one of its criteria of the construction process shows great leadership and loyalty to the Alice Springs community.

“In a perfect outcome, the successful tender by Probuild NT Pty Ltd will contract 100 per cent local trades and services which will retain the full economic benefit of the RFDS project within Central Australia. Local architecture firm ZoneA will also be responsible for the design of the project.

“I commend the RFDS on its planning for the future work force, and I congratulate the RFDS on its on-going commitment to Central Australia.”

The redevelopment will transform the RFDS' existing staff housing precinct on Simpson Street from four townhouses to a modern, secure and energy-efficient complex of 11 two-bedroom and two three-bedroom units.

“The townhouse redevelopment not only has the capacity to meet current demand to accommodate permanent and contract employees of the RFDS and their families, but also caters for growth in staff numbers as we continue to expand our services in Central Australia,” said John Lynch, CEO of RFDS Central Operations.

The townhouse project is the third major redevelopment of RFDS facilities in Central Australia in three years.

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In 2011, the RFDS completed a $3.2 million upgrade of its patient and engineering facility at the Alice Springs Airport, while last year it officially opened its new-look RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility following a $3 million redevelopment of the site and experience for tourists.

The RFDS Alice Springs Tourist Facility recently won a bronze medal in the Qantas Australia Tourism Awards, and was also named Best New Tourism Development in the 2012 Brolga Northern Territory Tourism Awards.

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