A BIGGER AND BETTER PALMERSTON HOSPITAL

23 August 2013

The Country Liberals Government and Federal Coalition will deliver a $150 million hospital for Palmerston and the Rural Area that meets this growing region’s future health needs.

Federal Coalition Leader Tony Abbott, Chief Minister Adam Giles and NT Health Minister Robyn Lambley today confirmed the new hospital will be built on a bigger and better site.

“The NT Government has identified a more appropriate site that will host a bigger, better hospital as part of a health precinct, meeting the needs of this growing region over the next 50 years,” Mr Giles said.

“Today we are confirming our commitment to start working on the new Palmerston Hospital site within a year, with $110 million in funding from the Federal Coalition and $40 million from the NT Government.

“The Country Liberals have quarantined up to 45 hectares of government owned land for the hospital and health precinct on the Stuart Highway, opposite Temple Terrace.

“Labor’s proposed site is just three hectares with no room for expansion. If Labor’s Mickey Mouse hospital model had gone ahead, the residents of Palmerston would be forced to tolerate a second-class hospital for decades into the future.”

Unlike Labor’s proposal, the Country Liberals and Federal Coalition’s bigger and better Palmerston Hospital will deliver:

- A full emergency department, including emergency specialists
- A paediatrics ward
- Elective surgery capabilities with a focus on low acuity services
- A thorough scoping study, master plan and community consultation that will explore other possible services.

NT Health Minister Robyn Lambley said the Country Liberals want this new hospital to be the start of a new health precinct, offering a wider range of health services to Territorians.

“This new site gives us room to expand and develop a health precinct for the people of Palmerston and we are committed to working with private providers who may want to be part of it,” Ms Lambley said.

“Palmerston’s hospital went nowhere for 11 years under Labor. The Country Liberals first raised the idea of a hospital for Palmerston in 1999 and opened a 24 hour clinic in 2000. The Clinic was closed by Labor a year later and since then, the best they have been able to do is build a fence around an intended site for a second-rate hospital.”
Based on current modelling, the greater Darwin region will require an additional 114 overnight hospital beds and 123 same day beds by 2015-16.

“The Country Liberals Government is about delivering a bigger, better hospital that is consistent with our vision of growth and opportunity for Palmerston into the future,” Mr Giles said.

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