Members of the community have the opportunity to provide valuable input at a community forum on Wednesday as the Territory Government finalises the scope of stage one of the Palmerston Regional Hospital.

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said planning for stage one of the project was progressing well and the time was right to hear the community’s views ahead of the Government finalising its plans for the project early next year.

“Palmerston Regional Hospital will be the cornerstone project for the Country Liberals Government over the next decade and it’s important the community recognises its magnitude and significance,” Mrs Lambley said.

“There has been $150 million earmarked towards stage one from the Territory and the Commonwealth and we need to spend every dollar of that wisely to deliver the best health services we can for the growing population of the Greater Darwin region.

“The Royal Darwin Hospital precinct will remain the Top End’s primary tertiary hospital for the foreseeable future and we will aim to ensure that stage one of Palmerston Regional Hospital complements the services already provided.

“Over time we envisage services growing at Palmerston which is why the Country Liberals announced a new site for the hospital in August to accommodate that expansion.

“Wednesday’s forum provides the opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the bigger and better site and also provide advice as to what services and facilities they would like to see included in the first stage of the project.

“Scoping work to date tells us we need an emergency department, paediatric services and access to surgical procedures as a part of this initial stage.

“We also need a facility that can attract a health workforce and work collaboratively with other hospitals and health services in our system.

“Once the scope has been finalised for stage one, the Government will explore the procurement options for delivery of those services.

“I encourage community members to come along, hear about the project and have their say on what they would like to see as a part of this significant project.”

The one hour forum will take place at the City of Palmerston Council Chambers at 12.30pm. A community feedback form will be distributed at the meeting. Feedback can also be emailed to palmerstonhospital.doh@nt.gov.au by 30 November.

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