A $43.5 million infrastructure boost to Royal Darwin Hospital will deliver more efficient airconditioning systems, greater back-up power to meet increased infrastructure demands and reduce the hospital's greenhouse gas emissions.

During a visit to RDH today, Chief Minister, Paul Henderson and Minister for Health, Kon Vatskalis today announced Budget 2010 would provide record funding for the hospital.

This will include essential electrical and mechanical upgrades at RDH including the conversion of the hospital's boiler to LPG to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a new centralised stand-by power system and the replacement of airconditioning water chillers.

“This year’s Budget will see recording funding to upgrade facilities at RDH,” Mr Henderson said.

“RDH is among the busiest hospitals in the nation as well as the only major hospital in a very isolated region of Australia.

“A reliable, robust stand-by power system is needed to ensure the hospital can continue to function in case of extended loss of mains power due to an event such as a cyclone.

“RDH’s Main Ward Block’s stand-by power generator will be replaced by a modern centralised stand-by power system to power all circuits on the campus.

“Our Government is delivering now for Territory families with record spending to boost our hospitals.

“Budget 2010 invests in our future and delivers better hospital infrastructure to ensure RDH is well equipped to meet the needs of our growing population.”
Mr Vatskalis said three new chillers – which are used for cooling water for the building’s air conditioners would also be replaced.

“The new chillers will be almost twice as efficient as those they are replacing, and combined with switching the boilers from diesel to LPG, will reduce the hospital’s greenhouse emissions by an estimated 8.2 per cent,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“This is in line with the Hospital’s commitment to lower its carbon footprint and follows a recent call for tender for 3500 light fittings at the hospital to be changed to eco-friendly options, which will reduce RDH’s gas emissions by two per cent or 450 tonnes a year.”

Mr Vatskalis said an NT Government commissioned report earlier this year was conducted to identify essential site upgrades.

“The report found new developments on the RDH campus including the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre, patient accommodation hostel, Menzies School of Health expansion and the NT Clinical School expansions would create extra infrastructure demands,” he said.

“The Henderson Government is investing in our future and delivering essential infrastructure at RDH to ensure the hospital is sufficiently prepared to handle this extra volume of activity.”

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Microsoft Word - 100415_B_HENDERSON_VATSKALIS_hospital.pdf (711.23 kb)