



Media release

Minister for Health

The Honourable Lawrence Springborg

12 country hospitals benefit from unveiling of hidden report

Health Minister Lawrence Springborg today released a damning report on the state of disrepair at twelve rural and regional hospitals which had sat, un-actioned, in the office of two previous Health Ministers since 2010.

Mr Springborg said Queensland Health had completed a rural and remote infrastructure report in late 2010 which identified 12 hospitals in need of critical maintenance and repair, due to their ageing infrastructure.

“The former Labor Government chose not to act on this damning assessment -instead choosing to allow it to sit in the bowels of the Department gathering dust,” Mr Springborg said.

Mr Springborg said the report had remained hidden as Labor did not want the public to be aware of the massive repair bill.

The hospitals identified are located in Atherton, Ayr, Biloela, Charleville, Charters Towers, Emerald, Kingaroy, Longreach, Mareeba, Sarina Roma, and Thursday Island.

“This report was brought to the attention of not one, but two former Deputy Premiers and Ministers for Health - a report which they both instead chose to sit on.

This report identified critical maintenance and repair issues at each of these facilities – issues which potentially compromised not only the safety of patients, but also the safety and wellbeing of our valued Queensland Health staff performing their day-to-day duties.

“Rather than ignoring the critical infrastructure needs of rural and regional Queenslanders, the LNP Government will ensure these communities benefit from a share in \$51.58 million worth of upgrades and improvements being announced today.

“Many of the hospitals identified in this hidden report are buildings that are 60 years or older. They often have inefficient or out-dated layouts preventing the implementation of efficient contemporary models of service delivery.

“The additional \$51.58 million we propose to spend during the next 12 months will ensure these hospitals are brought up to a standard where they can continue to function safely in the short to medium term and deliver on the LNP Government’s commitment to improve and upgrade health services in country areas.” Mr Springborg said.

• A copy of the hidden report released by the Minister is available at the Queensland Health website:
www.buildinghealth.qld.gov.au/rural

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