

**Deputy Premier and Minister for Health
The Honourable Paul Lucas**

Friday, October 09, 2009

Contractor appointed for Townsville Hospital North Block

Acting Premier Paul Lucas has announced Thiess Pty Ltd will deliver the new North Block, which is part of the \$94 million expansion of Townsville Hospital; as well as the \$25 million expanded Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit.

"The Townsville Hospital is a step closer to having more beds and more services with the appointment of Thiess Pty Ltd as the managing contractor for this stage of the expansion," Mr Lucas said.

"North Block will accommodate the final 40 beds of the 100 additional bed commitment made by the Queensland Government in 2006."

North Block will be located to the north of the existing acute care wing and will accommodate an expanded emergency department and the redevelopment of the medical imaging unit.

"The expanded emergency department will more than double its current capacity and provide 37 additional treatment spaces, making it the biggest in Queensland," Mr Lucas said.

Also included in this phase of construction was the expansion of the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit in the existing Acute Care Block, following the relocation of ICU into North Block.

North Block is scheduled to be completed by mid 2011 with additional refurbishment works to the existing hospital due for completion in early 2012.

Mr Lucas said the expanded Townsville Hospital will ensure the region has the health infrastructure to manage future growth and will improve community access to health services.

"It is vital that health services have the capacity to treat as many patients as possible throughout the state and the expansion of the Townsville Hospital is a key step in achieving this goal.

"It is about improving access to quality health care where it is needed most," Mr Lucas said.

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