

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tenders awarded for Toowoomba Hospital MRI project

A state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) service has been announced for Toowoomba Hospital.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair Mr Mike Horan said tenders had been awarded for the design, and project management, of the \$9.55 million project.

“Following a competitive tender process, we are pleased to announce the successful principal consultant/architect, and the project manager for the Toowoomba Hospital MRI project,” Mr Horan said.

“The successful principal consultant/architect is Elia Architecture, a company with a local office, and a track record of successful projects at Toowoomba Hospital, having completed the expansion and refurbishment of the hospital’s Endoscopy Unit earlier this year.

“Project management will be in the hands of Brisbane-based company, Capworks Management.

“Capworks Management has been project manager on numerous high-profile healthcare projects including the Rockhampton Hospital expansion, the Princess Alexandra Hospital emergency expansion and the Cairns Hospital redevelopment.”

Mr Horan said the provision of an MRI would enhance the hospital’s current medical imaging capabilities and provide a much needed service to patients from Toowoomba and surrounding areas.

“Toowoomba Hospital has a comprehensive medical imaging service including CT scanner, ultrasound, angiography and x-ray units, but each year we have around 500 inpatients and 1,500 outpatients requiring referral to an off-site MRI,” he said.

“At the moment we refer patients to private providers in the Toowoomba region, or to Brisbane.

“The MRI we are planning to install is a ‘3T’ MRI and it will be the first one installed in a public hospital in the Darling Downs region.

“It will be able to provide a wider and more effective range of services, faster and more functional imaging and it will also be able to provide specialist paediatric MRI services.

“The on-site MRI will save a lot of travel for not just the patients currently going to off-site MRI services, but also for the nurses and medical staff who have to go with them.

“The project is in its early design phase at the moment, but if all goes to plan we are hopeful that the service should be operational by the middle of 2017.”

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