

MEDIA RELEASE

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Board funds second CT scanner for Toowoomba Hospital

The people of Toowoomba and surrounding areas will soon have easier access to specialised scanning services following the announcement that a second CT scanner has been ordered for Toowoomba Hospital's medical imaging department.

Mr Aiden Cook, Director of Medical Imaging, said the department was looking forward to the arrival of the new scanner.

"Toowoomba Hospital has a comprehensive medical imaging service which includes CT, x-ray, ultrasound and angiography," Mr Cook said.

"This project, involving the replacement of the current machine and the addition of a second machine, will mean better access for the local community and for those who travel to Toowoomba to access CT services.

"It will also future-proof us for growth over the next 10 years and it will make our service more reliable because if one CT scanner needs maintenance our service can continue.

"Going from one to two CT scanners in a hospital is a milestone, and recognition of the amount of work we're putting through and the importance of the CT service to patient care."

Mr Cook said if all goes to plan building works should be underway by the end of 2015 with the second CT scanner scheduled to be operational by the second quarter of 2016.

Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board Chair Mr Mike Horan said the extra scanner would be a welcome addition.

"For 2014-15 the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service recorded an operating surplus of \$20.1 million, and the Board was very pleased to be able reinvest some of those surplus funds into this vital service," Mr Horan said.

"The project has a total value of \$2.75 million which will be funded by \$1.8 million which was already earmarked for the project plus an additional \$950,000 allocated by the Board."

Ends

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