The new Busselton Health Campus will be built with more beds and more services after the project received a $40.5 million funding boost from Royalties for Regions in December last year.

The funding boost, announced by Health Minister Kim Hames, increased the capital funding for the project to $117.9 million.

The new facility will offer:

- 80 overnight and same-day beds;
- an expanded 24-hour Emergency Department;
- improved theatre capacity including two modern operating theatres;
- a procedure room;
- two birthing suites;
- enhanced medical imaging services;
- expanded pathology services;
- a renal unit;
- expanded day surgery capacity;
- a four-bed hospice; and
- a new ambulatory care centre including:
  - community health;
  - community mental health; and
  - a new dedicated specialist outpatients consulting area.

These services will create a fully integrated health campus and provide South West residents with first class medical care close to home. It will also cater for the forecast growth of the region and the growing number of tourists visiting the area.

The new Busselton Health Campus will be built on the site of the existing Busselton District Hospital on Mill Road. The existing Busselton District Hospital will remain operational until the new facility is complete, ensuring there are no disruptions to health services for the community during the construction phase of the project.

The planning phase of the project is well underway. Construction of the new Busselton Health Campus will commence in 2012 and be completed in 2014.
Planning for the best health care

The Busselton Health Campus planning project team was formed in late 2010. This group will drive the planning of the new Campus and will work together to achieve a blueprint for the next stage of development and service delivery. The team includes representatives from the Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS), the Department of Treasury, health professionals, architects and planners.

This mix of experienced project team members will ensure the best possible health care planning to meet the long-term needs of the community.

At this stage of the project, the planning project team is providing valuable contribution to the development of two important documents – the Project Definition Plan, which will be produced by the health architect consultant and will provide a definition of the Campus’ design requirements; and the Functional Brief, developed by WACHS. The Functional Brief will be a description of the service, overarching design requirements and operational policies.

Seventeen clinical user groups (formed in early 2011) are being consulted in the development of these two documents.

Health architect experts on board

Leading health architecture firm, Bateman Architects was appointed to the Busselton Health Campus project in January 2011 to lead the development of the Project Definition Plan.

Bateman Architects is one of Western Australia’s leading health architect firms and has been responsible for delivering numerous successful regional health facilities throughout the State, including the Hedland Health Campus, Fitzroy Valley Health Services, Broome Mental Health and the Kununurra Hospital expansion.

Managing Director Norm Bateman has more than 40 years experience in health architecture and sits on the Busselton Health Campus planning project team as lead health architect consultant.

“Hospitals need to work from a technical point of view and they also need to support the human aspect by being comfortable and welcoming places.

“Hospitals also need to be clear and legible so that people can find their way around easily.

“Maintaining core consistencies with the national health guidelines and their application to health facilities in WA is critical to the efficient delivery of health services. Working with local health care professionals, we will be able to fine tune the new hospital’s design to cater to the particular needs and character of the Busselton region.

“Hospitals are important civic buildings. With the increased range of outpatient services now offered, hospitals are characterised as health campuses and, as such, it is more important than ever that they are open, welcoming and easy to navigate, and have a civic presence commensurate with their importance to the community,” said Mr Bateman.
A Community Reference Group has been established to support the development of the Busselton Health Campus, with 16 members including key stakeholder and community representatives.

Members of the Group include:

- South West Regional Director of the WACHS, Grace Ley (Chair);
- Busselton Chamber of Commerce and Industry representative, Doug Horsford;
- Shire of Busselton representative, Naomi Searle;
- South West Development Commission representative, Don Punch;
- Chief Executive Officer of GP Down South, Mrs Yvonne Robinson;
- Busselton Hospital Medical Advisory Committee representative, Dr Andrew Lill;
- Chair of the Naturaliste District Health Advisory Council, Liz Jones;
- South West Aboriginal Medical Service representative, Quenten Jackson;
- Silver Chain Senior Care Coordinator, Julia Carrico;
- St John Ambulance Chief Executive Officer, Derek Snowdon;
- Gene Hardy from Geocatch – representing local environmental groups;
- South West Coastal Hospitals Operations Manager from the WACHS, Rory Stemp;
- Busselton Health Campus Project Team representative, Kate Clarke;
- Community representative, Lisa Shreeve;
- Community representative, Creena Holly; and
- David Barton, representing the Minister for Health.

Health Minister Kim Hames said the roles for members of the reference group would be to ensure communication with the groups they represented and provide feedback from the community in order to ensure the best possible outcome.

“While the reference group is not a decision-making body, its members will play a vital role in providing meaningful and constructive input so that there is minimum disruption and maximum benefit to the community,” said Dr Hames.

Project timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early 2011</td>
<td>User groups formed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early 2011</td>
<td>Community Reference Group formed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid 2011</td>
<td>Completion of blueprint for services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid 2011</td>
<td>Functional Brief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid 2011</td>
<td>Concept Master Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-late 2011</td>
<td>Final Master Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-late 2011</td>
<td>Detailed design work</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Awarding of tenders</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Construction commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Construction completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Busselton Health Campus opens</td>
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</table>
Clinical users groups to inform design

Seventeen clinical user groups have been formed to provide stakeholder input into the development of the new facility and its service models. The User Groups represent each hospital and community health department – from the emergency department and maternity services to surgical services, mental health and aged care.

All User Groups met for the first time in early February to begin collecting and reviewing information for the planning phase of the project.

The Aged Care User Group met on 7 February 2011 and discussed the current and future requirements of aged care for the new Busselton Health Campus.

WACHS South West Regional Aged Care Manager Linda Jackson said the new health campus will provide exciting opportunities for aged care in the South West region because it will contain a larger number – than the existing facility – of health services under one roof.

“The combined facility allows us to promote an integrated patient centred continuum of care improving the balance between preventative, primary and acute care.

“Co-location also allows for more opportunities in relation to supporting a highly skilled and dedicated workforce,” said Ms Jackson.

Ms Jackson believes that it’s important to start thinking about how each department will operate in the new Busselton facility to ensure the best design outcome.

The Aged Care User Group – and the other User Groups – will meet for a second time in early March and their final meeting will be held in early April. They will provide their comments and feedback on the plans to the architects and project team leaders.

For more information

For more information or to register your feedback about the development of the Busselton Health Campus please contact the WA Country Health Service – South West at busseltonhealthcampus@health.wa.gov.au or on (08) 9752 6311.