

DATE Wednesday 21 January 2009

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CALLED FOR LAND FOR NEW HEALTH SERVICE

Expressions of Interest are now being called for the purchase of land for construction of a new health service in the Bega Valley region.

The \$100 million health facility is to be located within the South Bega area on a 'greenfield' site.

Sydney based firm BlueVisions Management has been appointed to lead the project through the design and construction stages.

Greater Southern Area Health Service Eastern Sector General Manager, Ken Barnett, said landowners in the South Bega zone are invited to submit their interest.

"The size of the land for the new facility will need to be approximately five hectares with suitable traffic access roads and access to public transport," Mr Barnett said.

"We also have the exciting opportunity to build an environmentally sustainable development and will therefore be looking for land that will be suitable to this including a locality that will have minimal impact on adjacent properties.

"As well as the environmental considerations we will be looking at any heritage issues and will be seeking input from the community during this acquisition process," he said.

Mr Barnett said the site would be acquired at market value with a market valuation assessment by an independent registered valuer conducted to form the basis of the negotiations.

"Because the new facility is being built on a 'greenfield' site, we can construct an environmentally sustainable state of the art building without encountering restrictions and difficulties associated with an existing structure.

"The site would need to be available by the end of June this year, have availability of suitable utilities connections and have topography suitable for the building of a health service with possible provision for future expansion," Mr Barnett said.

All potential sites will be assessed against key development criteria including time, cost and value; location access and traffic; not flood or bush fire prone, urban context, environment heritage and culture; and built forms and landscaping.

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The South Bega Zone was selected in late 2007 after an extensive and thorough evaluation process which identified the zone as the best option for the new health service.

The new health service will provide health care to the residents of the Bega Valley Shire as well as Eurobodalla, Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River.

Expressions of Interest will be open for a fortnight.

Mr Barnett said all interested parties, including previous respondents, need to submit their interest in writing and place it in the tender box located at the front reception of Bega District Hospital, McKee Drive, Bega, between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

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Media note: For interviews, please contact the Public Affairs office.