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DATE Friday 27 February 2009

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## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSE FOR HEALTH SERVICE LAND

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for land in the South Bega area to situate a new \$100 million health facility for the Bega Valley have closed.

People owning land in the south Bega region had two weeks to submit an EOI.

Greater Southern Area Health Service Eastern Sector General Manager, Ken Barnett, said there was strong interest from landholders and he thanked them for their submissions.

“Thank you to the landholders who responded to the EOI. We had good interest from the south Bega region.

“We are now following due process with regard to those submissions to identify the most suitable site for the new health facility.

“As we have previously stated, we want the land to be about five hectares with suitable traffic access roads and access to public transport, and not be flood or bush fire prone.

“The site would need to have availability of suitable utilities connections and have topography suitable for the building of a health service with possible provision for future expansion,” he said.

The 136-bed hospital is to be built on a ‘greenfield’ site and will be an environmentally sustainable building.

“All services provided at Bega and Pambula District Hospital and at the community health centres will be available in the new facility.

“In addition, new services will be introduced which include intensive care, an extended and continuing care service, an inpatient mental health service, drug and alcohol, rehabilitation, palliative care and an extensive renal dialysis service.

“The upgrading of services will mean more patients will be able to remain in the Bega Valley to receive their treatment” Mr Barnett said.

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