

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1863**  
**Asked on 24 November 2009**

MR BLEIJIE asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the private component of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—

- (1) When will the successful private tender for the project be announced?
- (2) What is the proposed date that construction for the hospital will commence?
- (3) When is the Sunshine Coast University Hospital project team being re-convened?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Kawana for his question.

The Bligh Government is committed to expanding healthcare services on the Sunshine Coast and will have delivered more than 150 beds at Caloundra and Nambour as part of a \$190 million commitment to health services on the Sunshine Coast.

The Nambour General Hospital redevelopment has delivered an extra 30 beds in June 2008, with a further 96 beds due in 2011. An expanded specialist outpatients department and medical imaging department along with 30 extra beds have also just been constructed as part of the on-going Caloundra Hospital redevelopment.

To ensure health demands are met in the interim period prior to the construction of the SCUH, the Government is accelerating the procurement of a private hospital on the SCUH site and will purchase 70 public beds from this facility in 2013 growing to 110 beds the following year.

The additional capacity provided by the private hospital at Kawana, will allow Queensland Health to grow its services to treat patients with more complex illnesses, reducing the number of patients who would otherwise need to travel to Brisbane for treatment.

As I have advised the member in more than one answer to his Questions on Notice in recent weeks, the project team continues its work to deliver the \$1.57 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

Given the interest the Member has professed to have in relation to this project, I would have thought he would be aware that on Friday 6 November 2009, master planners and lead technical advisors for the project were announced. This is a critical step undertaken by the project team to deliver additional health services for the Sunshine Coast.

The tender process for the private hospital operator will commence in 2010 and current planning envisages contracts to be signed with the successful proponent in 2011.

The private hospital is planned to begin construction in 2011, and the public hospital construction is planned to commence in 2013.