

MORAWA HOSPITAL, UPGRADING

1905. Mr Edwards to the Minister for Health

- (1) Will the Minister advise whether the renovation and upgrade of the Morawa Hospital is being stopped, or if not stopped, whether existing plans have been changed?
- (2) If so, will the Minister advise -
 - (a) how much money has been spent on the renovation and upgrade of the Morawa Hospital to date;
 - (b) what costs, if any, will be incurred in paying off contractors carrying out the existing works as a result of the change of plans; and
 - (c) what is the future of the Morawa Hospital and what funding will be available for further development?

Mr KUCERA replied:

1. The Government announced on Thursday 20 June 2002 that planning for a new purpose-built health centre in Morawa will start immediately.

The previous redevelopment plan was favoured by the Board some time ago and was based on retaining and gradually upgrading the existing traditional style hospital, which is 70 years old. This would have taken several years to complete and each stage of the process would have incurred separate planning costs, including fees for building design and specification.

The project which was scheduled to commence in June involved mainly the Accident and Emergency Department and would have cost \$1,000,000 to complete.

The decision to build a new health facility has come about as a rapid response by the Department of Health to advice received from community representatives that a new direction would be strongly supported and much more beneficial to the town.
2.
 - (a) \$117,706 has been spent to date on fees and disbursements. The efficiencies which will be achieved by having a replacement and fit-for-purpose facility, will be brought well forward as a result of the new health centre being planned and constructed in one single development stage. This cost benefit will outweigh the losses associated with the previous approach which would have taken several years and required multiple stages with fees being incurred each time.
 - (b) The Department of Housing and Works is currently negotiating a settlement figure with the contractor.
 - (c) The new facility will be of long term benefit for health service delivery for the area. The capital cost of providing for future services will be brought forward into a complete and single staged replacement project rather than injected incrementally over several years. The other benefit of this approach is that there will be no disruption to services while the construction is occurring, as is the case with redeveloping hospitals which must remain operational during the project/s.