

## Why fast track a new hospital for Tumut?

### 1. Economic growth:

Extraordinary economic growth is generating pressing need for the hospital to be replaced immediately, rather than in 10 – 15 yrs.

### 2. Aging population:

Population is aging at an above normal rate, plus Tumut is set to have an influx of retirees from outside the shire (plans for 3 retirement villages are under development).

### 3. 108 yr old hospital past use-by date:

Built in 1898 by the local community, in 2006 the original building (still there) has been renovated and added to so many times it is now a hotchpotch collection of makeshift rooms connected by a warren of corridors. The layout is inefficient, ineffectual to the point of being dangerous. The structure is decaying. Further capital outlay on renovations or repairs is wasted money.

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### Economic growth: Recent Economic Development in Tumut Shire

According to a recent summary<sup>1</sup>[1], Tumut Shire Council reports a number of developments in the area that total more than **\$600 million dollars** in value added to the local community. These developments include:

- ◆ the **\$56 million** expansion of the Tumut timber mill by Weyerhaeuser Australia P/L. In addition to the cash injection to the local economy, this project has the potential to generate up to **60 jobs**.
- ◆ the **\$400+ million** expansion of the Tumut Pulp and Paper mill by Visy Pulp and Paper between 2007 and 2010. This project will help create up to **550 permanent jobs** in the region and up to **800 jobs** during the construction stage.
- ◆ the **\$100 million** upgrade of Snowy Hydro Ltd is due to be executed between 2006 and 2009.
- ◆ the **\$4.6 million** upgrade of the Amity Nursing home is now completed.
- ◆ the construction of a multi-million dollar 5 star fishing lodge and resort is due to be completed in 2006.
- ◆ a **\$500,000** state of the art apple juice plant in Batlow is due to begin production in Oct/Nov 2006. It will produce the highest quality apple juice in the country and boost the area's extensive orchard industry<sup>2</sup>[2].
- ◆ significant investments have recently been made (2006) in the plantation of more than 50,000 hectares of pine trees which will aid in the creation and maintenance of more than **670 jobs** in the region.
- ◆ major retail expansion is expected in 2007 with a proposed new expanded Target Country store which has outperformed its current site.
- ◆ construction of an **\$11m** Adelong/Batlow MPS 24 bed hospital and aged care facility will begin early 2007 and is due for completion in Mar 2008.
- ◆ plans for two retirement village complexes totalling 79 units have been lodged with Tumut Shire Council. The feasibility of a third retirement village is under consideration by owners of land on the outskirts of Tumut. The total value of these developments is estimated to be in excess of **\$10 million**.
- ◆ a number of housing estates with an estimated total value of **\$32 million**, approved by Tumut Shire Council, are currently under development.

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<sup>1</sup>[1] Source: Tumut Shire Council, March 2006, "Business Opportunities".

<sup>2</sup>[2] Source: Tumut and Adelong Times, June 9 2006, "State of the Art Apple Juice Plant for Batlow".