



MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC

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BACK TO THE PAST FOR HEALTH SERVICES

MLC for Murchison, Ruth Forrest has responded with great concern to the announcement today by the Prime Minister of the plan to fund a full hospital service at the Mersey.

"This proposal, if successful, will force health services into the past rather than looking to the future" Ms Forrest stated.

"The days where every town had a hospital are long gone. This was in the days of poor roads, poor transport and different work practices within health services" Ms Forrest stated.

"Dedicated day surgery units and centres of excellence for major surgery which require a critical mass of patients and specialists to make them sustainable, are the way of future health services" Ms Forrest stated.

"The Federal Government proposal, costing taxpayers \$45M, will fragment services and result in continued challenges to providing a safe, effective and sustainable health service in the State and increase the difficulty in attracting and retaining the necessary specialist staff that currently exists" Ms Forrest stated.

"This plan threatens to force both the Burnie and Mersey Campuses of the NWRH to fail to provide a safe and sustainable service, leading to future downgrades and/or closures of both campuses. This proposal ignores progress in contemporary health services around the world" Ms Forrest stated.

"The health services of the North West Coast should not be used as a vote buying exercise for a Federal Member in a marginal seat in an election year" Ms Forrest stated.

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For further information phone 0447311901