



**Brian Paynter MP**

MEMBER FOR BASS

## MEDIA RELEASE

### WONTHAGGI HOSPITAL NEEDS A TRANSPLANT NOT A BANDAID

State Member for Bass, Brian Paynter MP has welcomed the \$3.088 million funding for the Wonthaggi Hospital but says that's simply not enough.

'The Wonthaggi Hospital needs to be rebuilt from the ground up. The people of Bass Coast deserve a state of the art modern facility with sub regional status. For too long we have seen the current building slowly deteriorate and struggle to cope with the medical demands of our rising population.

With a clinical services plan due to be released in May now is the time for the government to announce funding for the master plan for the Wonthaggi Hospital incorporating a new emergency department.

Upgrading the Wonthaggi Hospital to sub regional status is a vital step in the plans of BCH and the future of medical services in the area including Phillip Island.

The Coalition Government's commitment of \$25 million for the hospital was ignored by the Andrews Government after the last election much to the disappointment of the hospital board. Since then calls by Mr Paynter for funding for a new emergency department at the hospital have also been ignored.

Quotes attributable to Brian Paynter, Member for Bass –

'People shouldn't need to travel out of the area to access a hospital. Too many patients are being transferred long distances and admitted elsewhere. This not only affects the health of the patient but also their family and support network'

'The Bass Coast region has one of the highest regional growth rates in Victoria and Phillip Island is the jewel in the crown of our tourist industry. Our hospital and medical facilities should reflect this'