

# Coast's population rockets

## 175,000 residents by 1990



Minister for Health, Mr Kevin Stewart, cuts the ribbon into the new Gosford Hospital wing, watched by Mr L. E. Hannell, hospital board chairman.

The Central Coast's population is expected to rise to 175,000 by 1990, the Minister for Health, Mr Kevin Stewart said at the official opening of the first stage of extensions at Gosford District Hospital.

Mr Stewart said that in providing funding for the \$8.3m extension, the NSW Government was conscious of the substantial increase in population that had occurred on the Central Coast, bringing the current figure up to about 141,000.

Further increases are predicted for the 1980s, likely to raise the population to 175,000 by 1990.

The Minister said that in the past, the population, while being well served by the hospital, has none-the-less been disadvantaged by the limited availability of specialist services.

### Specialists

Now, with improved hospital facilities, and more yet to come, specialists will be encouraged to come to the Central Coast, relieving local residents of the need to travel to Sydney or Newcastle for such services.

Adding to these advantages, the new facility will serve as a major new employer, Mr Stewart said.

The new \$8.3m building which is connected to other sections of the hospital by tunnel comprises:

- four 30-bed wards, making a total addition of 120 beds;
- an accident and emergency centre;
- six operating theatres and associated facilities;
- admissions and discharge departments; and
- plant and PABX telephone facilities.

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