

Hospital EXPRESS 14-9/73. expansion detailed

The vice-chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gosford District Hospital, Mrs. Muriel Westweller, announced that the Wingello Nursing Home was officially handed over to the Gosford District Hospital on Wednesday.

Mrs. Westweller stated that the Wingello Nursing Home would in future be known as the Wyoming Hospital, and it would be administered as a subsidiary of the Gosford District Hospital on similar lines to those at Woy Woy and The Entrance-Long Jetty hospitals.

The present Nursing Home is caring for 53 in-patients.

The Board of the Gosford District Hospital will accept responsibility for the continuing care of these patients. No more nursing home patients will be admitted to the Wyoming

Hospital, as it is now to be registered as a public hospital. The purchase of this Nursing Home by the Gosford District Hospital was the result of continuing pressure by the Board to alleviate the acute shortage of beds at the Gosford District Hospital.

Mrs. Westweller said the Gosford District Hospital has at present 200 beds; Woy Woy hospital has 34 beds and following renovations to the Entrance-Long Jetty Hospital, its capacity will be increased to 30 beds. Mrs. Westweller stated that the work has commenced on the Woy Woy Nursing Home which is to be built adjacent to the Woy Woy Hospital.

With the administration now of Wyoming Hospital, the Board will be responsible for the administration of the four hospitals as outlined above. Mrs. Westweller reported that the growth of the hospital over the years has now made the Board one of the leading employers in the Central Coast. With Wyoming fully staffed in excess of 600 employees will be on the payroll of the Gosford District Hospital.

TARGET DEADLINE

Mrs. Westweller reported that the Planning Committee of the Gosford District Hospital was recently re-formed and is working to a target deadline of December 1973 for the provision of sketch plans for the additional 200 beds and services to be provided on site at the Gosford District Hospital.

Mrs. Westweller reported that the Board at their previous meeting expressed appreciation to staff of the hospital for the amount of time and effort put into the planning of the extensions of Gosford District Hospital.

As previously reported, the Board will receive in excess of \$10,000,000 from the Government for the much-needed extensions to the hospital. Now that the Gosford-Wyong areas have been declared growth areas, and with the Government departments taking increasing interest in the Central Coast, the Board must apply continual pressure on the Government to meet the hospitalisation needs of not only the Gosford Shire, but the Wyong Shire also.