



## The Hon Niall Blair MLC

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Lands and Water

IM15/39435

The Hon Andrew Constance MP  
Member for Bega  
PO Box 758  
BEGA NSW 2550

Dear Minister *Andrew*

Thank you for your letter of 18 December 2015 on behalf of Mr Jay Ellard, Secretary of the Old Bega Hospital Reserve Trust (the Trust) concerning the future of the Old Bega Hospital.

I note the Trust has now received \$500,000 from the Department of Industry towards the Old Bega Hospital project, and under the terms of the deed has until 31 October 2016 to secure the additional \$2.5 million required in completing the project. The Trust has identified that it may seek \$500,000 from the Public Reserves Management Fund Program (PRMFP).

I encourage the Trust to apply for funding in the 2016-17 PRMFP round, which is scheduled to open in March 2016.

It may be useful to note that the success, or otherwise, of the application cannot be guaranteed and will depend on the merits of the application when compared to all other applications received. As you may be aware, the PRMFP funding process is very competitive. More than 740 applications were received in 2015-16, with a total value of over 500 per cent of the available funds.

I would recommend that the Trust submit its business case as supporting documentation when applying for funding through the 2016-17 PRMFP. In order to ensure the strongest possible PRMFP application is submitted, the Trust should ensure that its project clearly aligns with PRMFP priorities and objectives.

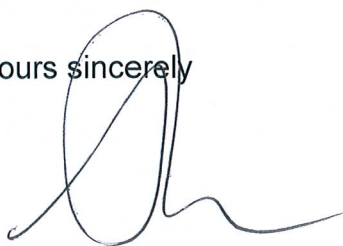
The Trust is also encouraged to consider options such as staging the project over several years, a mix of grant and loan funds being sought, as well as the need to secure all other funding to support its PRMFP application.

For continued liaison and support, I would encourage Mr Ellard to contact Ms Linda Barr, Senior Property Management Officer, from the Nowra Department of Primary Industries - Lands office, on telephone (02) 4428 9108.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter. I trust this information is of assistance to you in replying to Mr Ellard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

21 JAN 2016

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**Minister for Lands and Water**