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NEW CLINIC WELCOME, BUT IT'S NOT A HOSPITAL

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, has welcomed the announcement by Federal MP Greg Combet that a GP Superclinic will be provided at Morisset as an adjunct to existing GP services.

"I congratulate Waratah Medical Services on its successful bid for the clinic and thank Greg Combet for delivering the Government's promise" said Mr Piper.

According to Mr Piper, the superclinic will be a good first step towards improved healthcare for the area, but it won't be a hospital.

"It's good to hear that Morisset will get a boost in general practitioners and related services" Mr Piper said. "It leaves the local community's call for a hospital as the clear priority for this growing regional centre."

"The Commonwealth Government is right in choosing to build this new centre where the demand is greatest, but Morisset's growing population will need a broad range of services and planning must continue for a new hospital."

Mr Piper proposed a new hospital in 2007 and convened the first public meeting in September that year. Since then he has worked with John Quinlan and the Southlakes Integrated Health Care Committee to develop a plan for a state-run health facility for Morisset.

"People in western Lake Macquarie need access to a local hospital without driving over 40km, Mr Piper said. "The NSW Government has planned for regional growth, so it needs to plan for regional infrastructure."