

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

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\$44 million towards SAHMRI II and first proton-therapy centre

The State Government will contribute \$44 million towards a new state-of-the-art medical research hub to house the Southern Hemisphere's first proton-therapy research centre.

The 2017-18 State Budget commitment will help build the second South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute building, to be known as SAHMRI II, in Adelaide's biomedical precinct.

The State Government will provide a 99-year lease on the land.

The site is currently occupied by the Train Operation Control Centre, which will be moved to a modern facility at the Dry Creek Depot at a cost of \$31.4 million over three years.

The proton-therapy centre will treat patients and house a research facility that will specialise in fields including radiation biology, genetics, high-energy particle physics and nanotechnology.

The \$273 million SAHMRI II project is expected to create 250 jobs in construction and 340 ongoing jobs, including for researchers.

Background

In May, the Federal Government announced it would commit \$68 million in Commonwealth funding as part of the Federal Budget.

Proton therapy is cutting-edge cancer treatment that has the ability to deliver precise radiation to destroy tumour targets and save organs.

The technology has the potential to be part of the cure for a significant number of cancers, whilst reducing the likelihood of side effects and complications from treatment.

The technology has never been available in the Southern Hemisphere, leaving cancer patients to seek expensive treatment in the United States of America or Europe.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

The proton-therapy centre in the second SAHMRI building will be located alongside the first SAHMRI, the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, the University of South Australia Cancer Centre and the new University of Adelaide Medical School.

Locating the proton-therapy centre within the biomedical precinct ensures the research potential can be fully realised and allows clinicians to build on collaborations with major international centres.

SAHMRI II will provide significant capacity to increase research and development, and create room for lab and office space for other health and biomedical companies.

Quotes attributable to Premier Jay Weatherill

South Australia's world-class healthcare and biomedical precinct is well and truly taking shape and SAHMRI II will continue our success as a leader in biomedical and health sciences.

Locating the proton-therapy centre here will help world-class researchers and clinicians continue the legacy of South Australian physicist Sir Mark Oliphant, and Sir William Lawrence and Sir William Henry Bragg, who played a significant role in the development of proton therapy last century.

It will give hundreds of patients a better quality of life through innovative new treatment and create highly-skilled jobs for South Australians.

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