

CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON \$5M HEALTH FACILITY

Super clinic to deliver a healthy boost

THE Emerald GP Super Clinic is doing its best to improve the health of the local economy.

Local firm Ram Contractors won the \$3.4 million construction tender for the \$5m project.

A major health project for the Central Highlands has made the transition from the planning phase to the construction stage.

Most of the subcontracts, such as the electrical, plumbing and earth works, have been awarded to local businesses.



Councillor Paul Bell

At long last it's all systems go for building works...

"At long last it's all systems go for building works to commence,"

Central Highlands Healthcare Limited Board chairman Councillor Paul Bell said.

"The construction team will now work in earnest to get this new complex completed in time to open on July 30 this year.

"You will see a very quick transformation from a vacant block of land to a best-of-class leading-edge health facility.

"This is something the board has worked very hard to achieve – making sure the local community is going to be the main beneficiary of this project, even in the construction stage."



» ON SITE: Councillor Paul Bell, Flynn MP Ken O'Dowd, Ram Contractors' Brigid Duncanson with board members Sandra Hobbs and Pat Lyons at the GP Super Clinic site. CONTRIBUTED

Clearing works have started and site works are imminent at the site on the Gregory Hwy across from Emerald's Harvey Norman retail complex.

Cr Bell said the board was excited to see physical work begin on a project that had been five years in the making.

"It is with a huge sigh of relief that we're now actually at this point," he said.

The clinic will offer the provision of eHealth and telehealth facilities and partnerships with universities and health training institutions with a focus on meeting identified unmet health needs for the Central Highlands region.

It is not planned to compete with existing health services in the region.

"It is exciting times," Cr Bell said.