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FROM MACKAY TO THE JUNGLES OF MALAYSIA: OUR BOYS IN ACTION P3

DEMOLITION DAY FOR BASE

Wrecking crews set to move in on old hospital buildings

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THE Mackay Base Hospital is in such a poor structural condition that almost all of it will be torn down in preparation for the \$405 million redevelopment.

The decision follows a building inspection audit that found several structures did not meet strict new earthquake and flood codes.

The main building on Bridge Road, along with outpatients, the finance office and oncology have been earmarked for demolition.

The buildings identified as suitable for retention were dental, allied health

and the women's and children's areas.

The decision to demolish parts of the hospital has stirred up the medical community. Community Reference Group member Dr Bill Boyd said he feared the works would eat into the \$405 million the State Government put aside for the hospital redevelopment.

"We were told this wasn't going to happen, this will stretch the money even further," he said

But Health Minister Stephen Robertson said he was confident of meeting the Government's \$405 million budget and providing a state of the art health-care facility for Mackay.

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The main Mackay Base Hospital building on Bridge Road, along with outpatients, the finance office and oncology have been earmarked for demolition. PHOTO: AMANDA BALMER 140109/343



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