

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

Hospital vision now in hands of big players

THE \$630-million Bendigo Hospital is considered the biggest building project in Bendigo's history.

The major hype surrounding the project was confirmed on Monday when the state government chose two consortia, boasting some of the world's biggest infrastructure suppliers, to vie for the right to turn the hospital vision into reality.

Intercare is made up of John Laing, Theiss, Royal Bank of Scotland and Theiss Services.

Exemplar is driven by Capella, Lend Lease, Siemens and Spotless Services.

That such high profile and professional companies would invest so much time and effort into building a magnificent hospital in this city is a victory for the community.

Congratulations to both consortia for their desire to make our great city better.

But now the hard work begins.

These consortia must come up with plans to build a brilliant hospital on budget, on time.

Among the four hospital developments in Theiss's portfolio is the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney.

The company was also involved in Melbourne's Eastlink project.

Lend Lease delivered children's hospitals in Melbourne and Queensland. As a mark of its international status, the company played a role in the construction of the September 11 memorial at Ground Zero in New York.

Clearly, these consortia are serious players on the world stage and that should give this community confidence.

Let's hope both consortia realise that beyond building us a grand hospital, winning this bid will make them a member of our community and their vision should include what they will do to make this great place we live in better during construction and after they leave.

— **ROD CASE, editor**

What do you think?

Write a letter to the editor, or e-mail letters@bendigoadvertiser.com.au