

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 4 July 2014**

### **TRANSFORMING SYDNEY: CBD AND SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL**

- Construction on the CBD and South East Light Rail is set to begin with the awarding of the first major contract for the \$1.6 billion project.
- Laing O'Rourke Construction Australia has been appointed Managing Contractor to carry out up to \$45 million worth of essential early works to prepare the way for major construction of the light rail to begin next year.
- The CBD and South East Light Rail is a priority project for the NSW Government that will transform the future of transport in Sydney, deliver over \$4 billion worth of economic benefits and create 10,000 jobs.
- It will link Circular Quay and Central, the Moore Park sporting and entertainment precinct including the Sydney Cricket Ground and Allianz Stadium, Royal Randwick Racecourse, the University of NSW and Prince of Wales Hospital at Randwick.
- Keeping Sydney 'open for business' during construction of light rail is a priority and the NSW Government will continue to work collaboratively with businesses, councils and local communities to deliver the project successfully. The service is expected to be open and operational in 2019 or 2020.

### **GETTING ON WITH THE JOB OF DELIVERING WESTERN SYDNEY ROADS**

- Construction on the upgrade of Bringelly Road could begin by the end of this year with tenders being invited to build stage one of the 10 kilometre upgrade.
- The NSW and Australian Governments have committed \$500 million to upgrade Bringelly Road to slash travel times in the South West Growth Centre and improve access for the future Western Sydney Airport.
- The project is part of our joint \$3.5 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan that will boost the region's productive capacity and capitalise on the economic gains from developing an airport at Badgerys Creek.
- In the meantime, the NSW Government's fast-tracked upgrades of Schofields Road and Richmond Road in the housing and employment growth centre in North West Sydney have reached important milestones.
- Motorists can now drive on a wider, safer, Schofields Road between Windsor Road and Tallawong Road at Rouse Hill after it opened to traffic this week, while on Richmond Road, upgrade work for the stage between Bells Creek and Townson Road at Marsden Park is expected to open to traffic in the next few weeks.

## **CUSTOMERS TO BENEFIT FROM \$12 MILLION STATION UPGRADES**

- Train customers will benefit from more than \$12 million worth of upgrades at 16 stations, a year after NSW TrainLink was established to deliver its customers world-class standards of service.
- The NSW TrainLink Station Refresh program is about improving our customers' experience by making stations easier to access, more comfortable and safer. Work is being tailored to the needs of individual stations, but might include new furniture, toilets, lift interiors, tiling, painting, repairs, garden beds, more lighting and more bins. Stations will also undergo a deep clean and have a fresh coat of paint where needed.
- The stations included are: Gosford, Woy Woy, Wollongong, Wyong, Hamilton, North Wollongong, Tuggerah, Katoomba, Broadmeadow, Dapto, Morisset, Thirroul, Wentworth Falls, Fassifern, Lithgow and Canberra.
- The first year of operation of NSW TrainLink has delivered a range of customer improvements including more quiet carriages, refurbished trains, the new Opal ticketing, increased security, new staff uniforms, and improved travel information.

## **ELECTRICITY PRICES FALL**

- Deregulation of the retail electricity market came into effect on 1 July, resulting in a decrease in electricity bills for many NSW households.
- Customers moving from the regulated price to the transitional tariff will see an automatic reduction in their electricity bills as the transitional tariff is 1.5 per cent lower than the 2013/14 regulated price.
- The removal of retail electricity price regulation will help increase competition for consumers, but importantly will not change energy consumer protection laws, access to energy rebates or the quality of customers' electricity supply. IPART will continue to monitor the market.
- Families are encouraged to seek out even greater savings of between \$300 to \$400 a year by switching to a competitive market offer - visit [www.energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au) for a free price comparison of retail electricity offers in your area.

## **EASING CONGESTION AROUND SYDNEY AIRPORT**

- The NSW Government and Sydney Airport are jointly investing almost \$500 million to improve traffic flow in and around Sydney Airport, as part of a package of ground transport solutions.
- The NSW Government is investing more than \$282 million in road projects around the airport precinct, including \$40 million from the Federal Government, for WestConnex Enabling Works and other projects to address pinch points.
- The NSW Government is committed to working closely with Sydney Airport to improve the arrival and departure experience for local travellers and visitors to our great city.

- The package of works including the WestConnex Enabling Works will ease congestion by providing direct and improved access to and from the new motorway from the airport and port precincts.

## **REVITALISATION OF NEWCASTLE CBD**

- The NSW Government has announced work is progressing to revitalise Newcastle's CBD and deliver light rail, with trains to stop operating beyond Wickham from Boxing Day this year.
- Truncating the heavy rail line, creating a fully accessible transport interchange at Wickham and introducing light rail will unlock Newcastle's potential – helping to bring jobs, residents and visitors into the city centre.
- The closure of the heavy rail line past Wickham on 26 December will allow work to begin on revitalising Newcastle, with the rail line no longer forming a barrier and dividing the city from one of its greatest assets - the waterfront.
- Importantly, once the heavy rail line is truncated, work will start on construction of a major new interchange at Wickham for customers to connect with trains, light rail, buses and taxis.

## **GET HEALTHY AT WORK**

- A new program has been launched to help prevent lifestyle-related chronic disease in workers by changing their eating practices, weight, smoking habits and alcohol consumption.
- *Get Healthy At Work* is a joint initiative of NSW Health and WorkCover NSW – it's expected up to 15,000 workplaces will participate in the \$12 million, two-year program, potentially reaching 400,000 workers.
- The program targets people at work, offering services and support such as health checks, GP referrals and access to workplace health programs.
- *Get Healthy at Work* will initially focus on industries such as construction, manufacturing, transport and storage and agriculture, and forestry and fisheries, whose staff display the highest prevalence of lifestyle-related chronic disease.
- Businesses can learn more about *Get Healthy at Work* and register to participate at [www.gethealthyatwork.com.au](http://www.gethealthyatwork.com.au).

## **OPAL CARD**

- More buses in Sydney are going live with Opal, as the NSW Government launches a new 'Opal Man' campaign to encourage more customers to sign-up to the benefits of Opal ahead of the retirement of 14 paper tickets on 1 September.
- This week Opal was activated on about 600 buses in Sydney's North West – the biggest single rollout on buses so far, covering 15 million customer journeys a year.
- Later this month 300 buses in South West Sydney and Hurstville will go live with Opal.

- We're getting on with transforming public transport services, and this means catching up to the rest of the world by retiring some paper tickets and getting more people tapping on with Opal. Watch the 'Opal Man' video at: <http://youtu.be/v4VcQODUtPg>

## **FINAL STAGE OF PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE APPROVED**

- The Pacific Highway upgrade has now reached a major milestone, with the NSW Government announcing that planning approval has been given for the final section of the highway to be duplicated.
- The Woolgoolga to Ballina upgrade is the last link of the Pacific Highway to be upgraded to dual carriageway, comprising the duplication of 155 kilometres of road.
- This is one of Australia's busiest roads, carrying up to 12,000 vehicles per day in this section alone, and is the final link in the provision of the modern, upgraded road linking Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane following completion of the Hume Highway last year.
- Since the Pacific Highway upgrade program started, fatalities on the highway have more than halved – from 42 in 1996 to 20 in 2013, but there is still more work to do.

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