

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 26 September 2014**

### **FLORENCE - OUR SECOND NORTH WEST TUNNEL BORING MACHINE ARRIVES**

- The second North West Rail Link tunnel boring machine has arrived in Sydney and will be named Florence, after Australia's first female engineer and architect Florence Mary Taylor.
- Work on the North West Rail Link is powering ahead and with construction well underway and a \$3.7 billion operations contract now in place, the project is on track to open for customers in the first half of 2019.
- Florence is being assembled at the Bella Vista construction site by a crew of around 70 people and is expected to start digging before the end of the year.
- Florence is the second of four huge tunnel boring machines which will deliver Australia's longest railway tunnels, with the first tunnel boring machine Elizabeth already more than 90 metres along on her underground journey to Cherrybrook.

### **FREEZE EXTENDED ON PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCE APPLICATIONS**

- The current freeze on NSW Petroleum Exploration Licence Applications has been extended for a further 12 months.
- The extended timeframe will allow the Office of Coal Seam Gas to complete its comprehensive examination of current PELAs and allow the NSW Government to further assess the application process for petroleum titles.
- The NSW Government has put in place the most comprehensive regulations for the CSG industry in the country.
- We are committed to increasing our domestic supply of gas and are working to ensure only safe and sustainable gas supply projects proceed.

### **SYDNEY'S ONLINE REAL ESTATE BOOM COMING**

- It is hoped the introduction of .sydney web addresses will fuel an online real estate boom for the city's digital economy.
- Launching in early-2015, .sydney will give NSW businesses and internet users their first opportunity to register local city-based domain names.
- The move to launch .sydney domains are part of the Top-Level Domain program being rolled out by the global regulator of web addresses to introduce greater choice and availability online. More than 350 of the almost 1,400 new domains are already live on the Internet, including .build, .menu and .luxury.

- The New South Wales Government has signed a contract with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to obtain exclusive online rights to the .sydney new Top-Level Domain.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR WAR MEMORIAL GRANTS NOW OPEN**

- Local veterans' groups, sports clubs, councils and schools are encouraged to apply for funding to repair local war memorials.
- Grants of up to \$10,000 are available under the NSW Community War Memorial Grant Fund, with applications closing on Friday 3 October.
- The funding will support vital repairs to plaques, honour boards and facades which commemorate NSW veterans who have served across many theatres of conflict, from the Boer War onwards.
- The NSW Government is committed to supporting the ongoing maintenance of the thousands of local memorials across our State, particularly with the Centenary of Anzac period now underway, which began on 4 August 2014 and runs until 11 November 2018.
- For details on the application process please visit, <http://veterans.nsw.gov.au/community-war-memorials-fund/>

## **POPULAR MOTORCYCLE RESPONSE TEAM EXPANDED**

- An additional four officers and bikes are being added to the successful Motorcycle Response Team to help tackle traffic congestion and unsafe pedestrian behaviour.
- The teams have proven very effective since their introduction by targeting offences such as blocking intersections so traffic can move more freely.
- The high-visibility teams are based in the CBD and Parramatta, and will now be expanded to have a presence in other highly congested areas including Military Road in Mosman, Oxford Street to Syd Einfield Drive in Bondi, and King Street and City Road in Newtown, while in the west the community will see increased coverage in Blacktown and Castle Hill.
- Apart from its congestion-busting role, the MRT has also undertaken more than 270 pedestrian operations and within its first 15 months there has been almost a 30 per cent reduction in pedestrian crashes in MRT-patrolled areas.

## **PROTECTING ICONIC WOLLEMI PINES**

- In a secret location in the Blue Mountains, about 100 young Wollemi Pines have been planted by scientists as an insurance policy for the ancient plant, discovered 20 years ago this month.
- The NSW Government has marked the anniversary by declaring the Wollemi Pine as the State's first "iconic" plant species under the NSW Government's *Saving our Species Program*, which aims to protect the our most vulnerable species from extinction.

- We have also announced a \$25,000 injection of funds towards securing the plant's survival in the wild.
- The Wollemi Pine captured the world's attention when it was discovered because it had been presumed extinct for at least 60 million years.

### **\$568,000 TO ENCOURAGE NEW FILMMAKERS AND AUDIENCES**

- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is investing in the next generation of filmmakers and script writers so they can capture the stories of our diverse communities.
- More than \$500,000 has been granted to 18 organisations across the State to support professional development projects, as well as 26 public screenings, festivals and tours, in order to show quality screen productions to a wider audience.
- Some of the professional development opportunities granted funding include mentoring programs in Western Sydney, workshops in interactive storytelling in the Riverina and Hunter and a conference attracting up to 600 national and international delegates.
- The NSW Government is determined to support the development of screen production businesses in NSW, which generates more than \$1.5 billion every year.

### **EXTRA BUS SERVICES FOR WESTERN SYDNEY CUSTOMERS**

- More than 200 extra bus services have started in Western Sydney.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is investing in extra public transport services right across the state, and since March 2011 has introduced more than 9,000 extra train, bus and ferry services.
- The latest bus services would benefit customers in suburbs including Liverpool, Elizabeth Hills, Edensor Park, South Wentworthville, Cecil Hills, Parramatta, Pemulwuy, Cabramatta, Bonnyrigg and Greystanes.
- Work is also underway on a new multi-storey car park at Canley Vale, which will provide more than 120 commuter parking spaces

### **PROJECTS SHORTLISTED FOR RESOURCES FOR REGIONS FUNDING**

- The NSW Government has announced 14 infrastructure projects in mining-affected communities have been shortlisted for possible funding, under the latest round of Resources for Regions.
- Up to \$89 million was available to support infrastructure projects in 11 eligible Local Government Areas (LGAs) which, for the first time, included Broken Hill, Cessnock and Maitland.
- In 2011, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government committed \$160 million over four years to deliver vital infrastructure for communities experiencing direct and indirect pressures as a result of mining activity.

- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has added more eligible communities to the program and now gone beyond the original commitment, with a total of \$217 million made available.

## **EARLY WORKS BEGIN FOR NEW BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL**

- An early works contract valued at more than \$80 million has been awarded to begin construction of the new Byron Central Hospital.
- Brookfield Multiplex has been appointed to complete the detailed design process and undertake enabling works at the Ewingsdale site, which is set to begin in the coming weeks.
- Main works construction is set to begin in 2015 and soon our community will see this new facility rising from the ground.
- The project will enhance services through a purpose-built facility which will include:
  - 24-hour accident and emergency services;
  - Overnight inpatient beds;
  - A low-risk maternity service;
  - X-ray and medical imaging services;
  - A new 20-bed non-acute mental health unit;
  - Chemotherapy service.

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