

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 12 August 2016**

### **AUSGRID TRANSACTION PROCESS**

- The NSW Government respects yesterday's announcement in relation to the Ausgrid lease, noting that Australia's Foreign Investment Policy and its administration is a matter for the Commonwealth Government and its agencies.
- There will be no delays to our infrastructure pipeline and we remain on track to deliver on our promise to transform this State. We will continue to deliver on all our election commitments.
- The NSW Government and all bidders who submitted binding bids have been engaging with the ACCC, ATO and FIRB since December 2015
- Our Rebuilding NSW plan will deliver new schools, hospitals, public transport and roads – making a real difference to the lives of the people of NSW.
- The 100 per cent lease of TransGrid, completed in November 2015, delivered gross proceeds of \$10.258 billion to NSW and attracted a Commonwealth Asset Recycling Incentive payment of around \$1 billion.

### **\$400 MILLION FIXING COUNTRY RAIL ON TRACK TO DELIVERY**

- The NSW Government has announced \$15 million to fund pilot projects to kick start improvements to the state's rail freight network – an additional investment on top of the \$400 million Fixing Country Rail Program.
- Examples of projects receiving funding include:
  - \$5 million towards the reinstatement of the Maimuru to Demondrille railway line;

- \$3 million for rail siding extension at Hillston to help service a major grain receival site;
  - \$2 million for the reinstatement of a 2.8 kilometre section of the Moree to Inverell railway line at Moree;
  - \$1.5 million for rail siding extension at Barellan to help service a major grain receival site;
  - \$1.5 million for rail siding extension at Burren Junction to help service a major grain receival site; and
  - \$1 million for upgrading rail siding at the Canberra Railway Freight Terminal (Fyshwick).
- Since March 2011, the NSW Government has invested more than \$1 billion in the operation, maintenance and upgrading of the Country Regional Network which comprises of 2,386 kilometres of operational railway lines.

## **FARMING FUTURE OF THE LIVERPOOL PLAINS SECURED**

- The NSW Government has secured a buy-back of the Carroona mining exploration licence issued by the former Labor Government ensuring coal mining will not occur under the famous black soils of the Liverpool Plains.
- Coal mining under the highly fertile black soil plains poses too great a risk for the future of this food-bowl and the underground water sources that support it.
- This decision guarantees the future of the State's most productive and fertile farming land, providing confidence for local farmers to invest in an industry that has the potential to be one of the best food bowls of the world.
- The buyback of the Carroona licence – which was issued in 2006 for underground coal mining covering approximately 344 square kilometres - was in line with advice from the NSW Planning Assessment Commission, which recommended the Government prohibit mining on the black soil plains.

## **FIRST TRACKS IN PLACE FOR SYDNEY'S LIGHT RAIL**

- Construction on the CBD and South East light rail project has entered a new phase with the first section of track laid in Kensington.
- Light rail will change the way people commute through the heart of our city - we once again thank residents, businesses, commuters and motorists for their patience as construction powers ahead.
- Light rail will move up to 13,500 customers in both directions between 7am and 7pm and when combined with express and local bus services, will bring increased transport capacity of up to 30 per cent in the morning peak.

## **NSW GOVERNMENT SCORES QANTAS DEAL FOR SYDNEY**

- The NSW Government has struck a ground breaking partnership with Qantas to secure the airline's new multi-million dollar, state of the art 787 Dreamliner flight simulation facilities for Sydney.
- The new flight training facility will train hundreds of Qantas pilots in the coming years and this partnership will also seek to strengthen Qantas' links with local aviation-related businesses, including specific advice on business to business opportunities in and around the Mascot based Boeing 787 simulator and around the Badgerys Creek precinct at the proposed Western Sydney airport.
- Qantas is a major driver of economic growth and employment in NSW – contributing \$4.25 billion directly and indirectly and employing over 24,800 full time employees across NSW in 2015-16.
- This partnership builds on the NSW Government's recent three-year, \$28 million partnership with the airline to drive tourism growth.

## **PRISONS STRENGTHEN REGIONAL INVESTMENT**

- More than 2,380 additional jobs will be created as part of the NSW Government's prison infrastructure program which will boost regional investment and improve community safety.
- More than 4,165 beds will be delivered over the next three years as part of the first tranche of projects announced in the Budget – this includes modular cells with 250 beds at Bathurst and 400 beds at Kempsey, 480 beds at Junee, 240 at Emu Plains and 360 at Nowra.
- Corrective Services is consulting with the community on plans to expand Cessnock by 1,000 beds, work is about to begin on a 400-bed 'rapid build' high security prison in Wellington and work is underway to convert the former Juniperina Juvenile Detention Centre at Lidcombe to an adult women's prison, and recommissioned prisons at Berrima and Unanderra will open next month and in January respectively.
- The NSW Government has committed \$3.8 billion over four years to increase the capacity of the correctional system.

## **HELPING THOUSANDS OF FIRST HOMEBUYERS**

- The NSW Government is continuing to support thousands of people in realising their dream of buying a home with the number of first homeowners grants rising by almost 11% over the last financial year.

- Since 2012, the First Home Owner Grant scheme has been targeted to encourage increased housing supply, providing \$10,000 towards the construction or purchase of newly built homes valued up to \$750,000.
- The First Home - New Home scheme provides further financial assistance for first homebuyers by offering full exemptions from stamp duty on new homes valued up to \$550,000, and stamp duty concessions on new homes valued between \$550,000 and \$650,000.
- More than 70,000 NSW homes were given the green light for construction last financial year.

### **TRAINING SCHEME EXPANDED TO MORE REGIONS**

- The NSW Government will expand a highly successful program currently running in the Hunter region that provides social housing tenants with training and work opportunities in the disability and aged care sectors to another four regions in NSW.
- The CareerPathways program will be extended to the Central Coast, Sydney, Western Sydney and the Mid North Coast and will give more vulnerable members of the community the opportunity to break the cycle of intergenerational unemployment.
- As the program expands there will be further opportunities in other sectors such as hospitality, cleaning operations, business and horticulture with a greater chance for participants to move into areas where there are skills shortages.
- For more details visit: [www.training.nsw.gov.au](http://www.training.nsw.gov.au) or [www.housing.nsw.gov.au](http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au)