

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 14 October 2016**

### **GREYHOUND RACING GIVEN ONE FINAL CHANCE UNDER TOUGHEST REGULATIONS IN THE COUNTRY**

- The NSW Government will give in principle support for greyhound racing to have one final chance in NSW, subject to the industry agreeing to the strictest regulations that exist anywhere in the country to clamp down on animal cruelty.
- A Greyhound Industry Reform Panel will determine the new regime and ensure NSW Greyhound Racing is the cleanest in the country, with new measures including:
  - Mandatory life bans as well as increased jail terms for live baiting;
  - Registering all greyhounds for their entire lives;
  - An independent regulator with strong new powers to ensure transparency and accountability; and
  - Substantially increased resources for enforcement and prosecution as well as animal welfare.
- The RSPCA, industry and government representatives have been invited to join the Panel.
- Subject to the Panel's recommendations, legislation would be introduced early in 2017 to repeal the ban and deliver the new regime under which racing would operate.

### **SHARK NETS TO BE TRIALLED ON NORTH COAST**

- The NSW Government is seeking Commonwealth approval to implement a six month trial of traditional shark nets on the North Coast.
- The design and implementation of this trial, including locations, will be guided by consultation with the North Coast community – which is what has occurred at every stage of the NSW Government's \$16 million Shark Management Strategy.

- The NSW Department of Primary Industries will convene a meeting of the North Coast Shark Management Strategy Community Reference Group as soon as possible to discuss the decision and design of the trial.

## **AIRPORT ROAD UPGRADES POWERING AHEAD**

- The NSW Government is improving traffic congestion in and around the airport with the Airport North project receiving approval to proceed and work is progressed on the Airport East and West upgrades.
- As part of the Airport North project, O’Riordan Street will be widened to three lanes in each direction between Bourke Road and Robey Street.
- Early work is well under way on the Airport East upgrade, which includes a new road underpass beneath the rail line which links General Holmes Drive, Botany Road and Wentworth Avenue.
- A final business case is being developed for Sydney Gateway, which will link WestConnex to the airport and Port Botany, in consultation with Sydney Airport and the Commonwealth Government.

## **A NEW VISION FOR SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK**

- The NSW Government has released plans for the biggest revitalisation of Sydney Olympic Park in its history with the precinct set to provide homes for 23,500 residents, businesses, new transport links, parklands and retail.
- The Sydney Olympic Park Masterplan 2030 will provide world class facilities for up to:
  - 23,500 residents (nearly 22,000 more than today);
  - 10,700 homes (nearly 9,900 more than today); and
  - 34,000 jobs (16,500 more jobs than today)
- Community feedback is invited on the Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan online at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/olympicpark](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/olympicpark) until 15 November 2016.

## **\$337 MILLION FOR A CLEANER NSW**

- The NSW Government will invest \$337 million over four years from 2017-18 for state wide litter reduction and waste management projects as part of the ‘Waste Less, Recycle More’ initiative.

- Reducing litter volume by 40 per cent by 2020 is one of NSW Premier Mike Baird's Premier's Priorities.
- The 2017-2021 funding includes:
  - \$30 million for litter reduction programs, including \$1.5 million for community litter grants and \$4 million for council litter grants;
  - \$88.5 million for resource recovery infrastructure;
  - \$57 million for household problem waste programs, including \$37 million for community recycling centre collections and processing;
  - \$70 million for councils' waste and resource recovery projects; and
  - \$65 million to combat illegal dumping.
- For more information on *Waste Less, Recycle More* and the NSW Government's litter reduction and waste management programs visit [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste-less-recycle-more.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste-less-recycle-more.htm)

## **BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN REGIONAL NSW HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY**

- Businesses in regional NSW remain the most confident in the country according to the latest Sensis Business Confidence Index released today.
- Business confidence in both metropolitan and regional NSW either meets or exceeds the national average in the areas of sales, employment, wages, price and profitability for small and medium sized businesses.
- This is further evidence the NSW Government's investment in regional NSW is helping grow jobs and assisting businesses get going.

## **ELIMINATING DUPLICATION**

- The NSW Government has announced proposed changes to 227 boards, committees and other entities as part of 'Eliminating Duplication'.
- The first phase of this process will see entities that have served their process and can now be discontinued, merged or integrated into their relevant departments without need for legislative change.
- 'Eliminating Duplication' across Government will eventually save taxpayers \$40 million a year.
- Public consultations into the first phase of 'Eliminating Duplication' will be held until November through [www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au)

## **PLAN AND TRACK SCHOOL BUS TRIPS IN REAL TIME**

- Parents and carers can now plan their child's school bus trip online and view the journey in real time using apps on phones and tablets.
- Timetables for all school buses travelling in the greater metropolitan areas – from the Central Coast to the north, south to the Illawarra and west to the Blue Mountains – are now available on [tp.transportnsw.info](http://tp.transportnsw.info) which includes route maps, arrival and departure times and stopping points.
- The real time apps – Triptastic, NextThere, Arrivo Sydney and TripGo - can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

## **RECORD HOUSING COMPLETIONS IN NSW**

- More than 51,000 new homes were delivered across NSW over the last year – setting a new all time record for the state.
- Recent ABS data shows the state's record building approvals are flowing through to record housing commencements and completions.
- These figures show the NSW Government is working hard to improve housing supply and choice to help people get into the housing market.

## **NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME IN THE CAN**

- The NSW Government is on track to deliver a cost-effective, best practice container deposit scheme with the introduction of the Waste and Resource Recovery Amendment (Container Deposit Scheme) Bill 2016 into State Parliament.
- Under the container deposit scheme:
  - People in NSW will be able to return empty prescribed beverage containers between 150 ml and three litres to collection points for a 10-cent refund.
  - A single Scheme Coordinator will be responsible for the financial management of the scheme and for ensuring the scheme meets state-wide targets.
  - Beverage suppliers will be responsible for covering the costs of refunds through agreements with the Scheme Coordinator.
  - The Environment Minister will appoint the co-ordinator in early 2017, as well as appointing Network Operators who will be responsible for the operation of the scheme.

- More information is available at [epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/container-deposit-scheme.htm](http://epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/container-deposit-scheme.htm)