

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 17 JUNE 2016**

### **NEW PIPELINE TO SECURE BROKEN HILL WATER SUPPLY**

- The NSW Government will, for the first time in history, provide a safe and secure water supply to Broken Hill through the construction of a new pipeline for the Murray River.
- The 270-kilometre pipeline is part of a \$500 million investment in the 2016-17 Budget to ensure a reliable water source for the historic township.
- The pipeline will also enhance certainty for local residents and businesses by reducing the need for productive water buyback and assist in the management and protection of the Menindee Lakes.
- The pipeline is the centrepiece of the NSW Government's \$1 Billion Regional Water Security and Supply Fund which is ensuring the long-term viability and sustainability of the state's regional towns and water supplies.

### **NSW BUDGET: \$100 MILLION KICKER FOR \$900 MILLION WESTMEAD REDEVELOPMENT**

- The NSW Government has committed close to \$100 million towards the \$900 million redevelopment of Westmead Hospital, in a significant boost for health services in Western Sydney.
- This investment includes \$60.5 million towards the new Acute Services Building and \$38.8 million towards the expanded new car park.
- It is also expected to provide a substantial boost for the local economy, with up to 1000 construction workers on-site each day at the peak of the redevelopment.
- The Westmead Redevelopment is an important step towards the transformation of Westmead into a cutting edge 'health city'.

## **LICENCE RENEWAL NOW 'CLICK' AND EASY**

- Eligible drivers are now able to renew their licenses online.
- The new service enables users to renew their licence for up to five years using an existing photo. Eligible drivers may now need to visit a Service NSW as little as once every ten years to update a photo or sit an eye test.
- The new system reflects the NSW Government's commitment to improving online services that save people time and enhance accessibility and convenience.

## **NSW BUDGET: \$108 MILLION BUS BOOST**

- New double decker busses and 3,800 extra weekly bus services will be introduced to serve some of Sydney's busiest routes.
- The \$108 million investment package will be used to fund 80 new double decker busses and 12 new or extended bus routes. The double deckers can carry 65 per cent more capacity and will be used on key corridors.
- Since coming to office, the NSW Government has delivered more than 15,800 extra weekly public transport services for customers.
- The NSW Government is committed to delivering new and improved services for our growing State.

## **NSW BUDGET: \$90 MILLION FOR DROUGHT STRATEGY**

- Farming businesses suffering from drought can expect relief from this year's Budget, with the NSW Government committing \$93.2 million to the NSW Drought Strategy.
- The NSW Government is committed to providing more than \$300 million to farm businesses through until 2019-20.
- The \$93.2 million commitment includes:
  - \$80 million investment in the Farm Innovation Fund, which offers low-interest loans to install or upgrade permanent on-farm infrastructure
  - \$9 million for vocation training and farm business planning
  - \$2 million for the Bureau of Meteorology to develop an enhanced weather station network
  - \$1.2 million for transport assistance for animal fodder and donated fodder within NSW
  - \$1 Million for Rural Support Workers to support drought affected farmers and rural communities

## **ON TIME AND \$66 MILLION UNDER BUDGET: EPPING TO THORNLEIGH THIRD TRACK COMPLETE**

- The Epping to Thornleigh Third Track freight line has been delivered on time and \$66 Million under budget.
- An integral part of the Northern Sydney Freight Corridor Program, the six new kilometres of track will cater for the expected growth in freight movements and improve 20,000 heavy vehicle trips on the Northern Line per year, reducing congestion and improving passenger service reliability.
- The program is yet another example of the NSW Government's commitment to delivering projects that not only improve transport but also deliver jobs and growth.

## **NSW BUDGET: OLYMPIC TRAINING FACILITY FOR REGIONAL NSW**

- The NSW Government will fund a world class International Ski Jump Ramp and high performance centre at Lennox Head in Northern NSW.
- Based at Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre, the \$5.9m complex will feature an Olympic sized swimming pool and water jump ramp.
- In addition to benefitting Australian athletes preparing for Winter Olympics, the project will deliver new jobs plus retail, accommodation and tourism benefits in the Lennox Head and Ballina communities.

## **NSW BUDGET: \$12M PUTS WIND IN OPERA HOUSE SAILS**

- The NSW Government is funding the biggest upgrade of the Sydney Opera House since it opened.
- This \$12m instalment, the first investment in the \$202 million project, will be used to plan and design major improvements to the Concert Hall, entry points and foyers and a dedicated creative learning centre and new function centre
- With the NSW Government investing \$600 million in the state's cultural infrastructure, the Sydney Opera House renewal project symbolises the NSW Government's commitment to ensuring cultural and artistic vibrancy in the future.

## **NEW CODE AND POTRAL MAKES BUILDING AND RENOS EASIER**

- A new Housing Code designed to simplify the rules around building and renovating is now on exhibition.

- The code contains clear and simple rules for works that can be carried out as complying development saving people time and money on their renovations.
- Complying development is a fast-tracked development assessment process that allows certain works that meet set standards to be approved without a full development application.
- The NSW Government has also introduced a new online Planning Portal designed to increasing the accessibility and efficiency of the planning system.
- Eliminating piles of paper and days of waiting, the community will now be able to access the portal's online tools to make building and renovating easier.