

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 18 NOVEMBER 2016

SYDNEY METRO WEST: A NEW RAILWAY, MORE TRAINS FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

- A new underground metro railway for Western Sydney will be the State's next major public transport project – securing the long term future of the region and of Australia's global city.
- Sydney Metro West will provide a direct connection between the CBD's of Parramatta and Sydney, serving growing communities along the route and a booming region for generations to come.
- The NSW Government will work with the community and industry to deliver the project, including new railway stations at:
 - Parramatta, where the number of jobs is expected to double over the next 20 years to 100,000;
 - Sydney Olympic Park, where 34,000 jobs and more than 23,000 residents will be located by 2030;
 - The Bays Precinct, Sydney's new innovation hub where 95 hectares of land is being regenerated;
 - Sydney CBD, allowing easy access to the existing public transport network and Stages 1 and 2 of Sydney Metro, which is currently under construction.
- The project is expected to be built largely underground and be operational in the second half of the 2020's.

FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN NSW

- The Independent Commission Against Corruption will be reconstituted with three Commissioners, at least two of whom will be required to approve the use of the ICAC's extraordinary power to conduct public inquiries.

- The NSW Government had provided in-principle support for all 35 recommendations in the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the ICAC tabled on 27 October 2016.
- Among the key reforms introduced into the Parliament:
 - ICAC will be reconstituted as a three-member Commission comprising a Chief Commissioner and two other Commissioners;
 - The use of the ICAC's extraordinary power to conduct public inquiries will be required to be authorised by the Chief Commissioner and at least one other Commissioner;
 - A CEO will be appointed to manage the ICAC's day-to-day operations;
 - The three-member Commission will publish guidelines relating to public inquiries that ICAC staff, and Counsel Assisting the ICAC, must follow;
 - The ICAC and the ICAC Inspector will be required to give affected persons a reasonable opportunity to respond before including an adverse finding or opinion about the person in a report – and, where the person elects to have it included, include a summary of their response in the report; and
 - The ICAC will be able to, where requested, gather evidence that may be admissible in a criminal prosecution after the completion of its investigations.

NSW TOPS NATION IN TIMELY EMERGENCY CARE

- A new report shows that NSW is leading the nation in timely emergency department care.
- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report 'Emergency department care 2015-16: Australian Hospital statistics' shows 81% of NSW emergency department patients were seen on time - that is, clinical care was commenced - within the time specified in five nationally-accepted triage categories: resuscitation (immediate), emergency (10 minutes), urgent (30 minutes), semi-urgent (60 minutes), non-urgent (120 minutes).
- NSW hospitals also recorded the lowest median wait time for patients to commence clinical care in the emergency department (15 minutes), ahead of Victoria (19 minutes). The national result was 19 minutes.
- The report can be found at www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals

FIRST SHARK NETS IN THE WATER OFF BALLINA

- Shark nets fitted with technology to detect marine life have been deployed off the NSW North Coast for the first time in history in response to the community outcry for traditional nets following a spate of shark attacks.

- The nets are similar to the ones deployed between Newcastle and Wollongong since 1937 and the same technology used in the NSW Government's successful trial of smart drumlines will be attached to the nets to alert authorities of any entanglements.
- The community informed the decision making process regarding locations and the nets will be trialled at Lighthouse Beach, Sharpes Beach and Shelly Beach at Ballina, Seven Mile Beach at Lennox Head and Evans Head Beach.
- The nets will complement the Government's \$16 million shark strategy which is leading the world in testing new technologies including drones, listening stations and sonar technology to better protect swimmers.

PREMIER OFFICIALLY OPENS REDEVELOPMENT OF LISMORE HOSPITAL

- Healthcare across the Northern Rivers has received a major boost with the official opening of the \$80.25 million third stage redevelopment of Lismore Hospital.
- Stage 3A included enabling works for new pathology, temporary maternity, and mortuary services. It also included expanded medical imaging capacity and a new front entry, with a new \$9 million, 270 space multi storey car park also just completed.
- The NSW Government has committed \$180 million to Stage 3B which will deliver new operating theatres, Intensive Care Unit, a birthing unit and nursery, medical imaging services and wards.

LEGISLATION TO REPEAL LABOR'S NATIVE VEGETATION ACT PASSES NSW PARLIAMENT

- Legislation has passed the NSW Parliament to implement a new and modern system to improve farm productivity and better protect biodiversity, delivering on a core election commitment of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government.
- The legislation will repeal Labor's unfair *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and has been developed following a rigorous, transparent, scientific and evidence based process and will allow farmers to get on with doing what they do best – caring for their land while improving on farm productivity.
- This legislation is supported by a record investment of \$240 million over five years in private land conservation, plus \$70 million per year after that.

NSW ECONOMY NUMBER ONE – STRONGEST GROWTH SINCE SYDNEY OLYMPICS

- Latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that the NSW economy is the strongest in the nation –
- The ABS data shows that NSW real Gross State Product grew by 3.5% in 2015-16, stronger than any state or territory.
- Not only is the NSW economy experiencing the strongest growth since the Sydney Olympics, this is the first time in 25 years we have been number one among the states for overall economic growth.

SYDNEY TO HOST THE 2018 INVICTUS GAMES

- Sydney will stage the 2018 Invictus Games after the NSW Government won the bid to host the international sports tournament for wounded, ill and injured veterans.
- The eight-day, 11 sport event will be held in October 2018 and attract up to 500 competitors from 17 nations in events such as swimming, wheelchair rugby and sailing on Sydney Harbour.
- The 2018 Invictus Games will be delivered by the Australian International Military Games (AIMG) in the final year of the Centenary of Anzac. For more information visit www.invictusgames2018.org.

KIDS IN CARE AT CENTRE OF REFORM

- The NSW Government has embarked on ground-breaking reforms aimed at ending the cycle of inter-generational disadvantage and rising numbers of children in Out of Home Care.
- The reforms follow an independent review by former senior public servant David Tune and under the Government's 'Their Future Matters: A New Approach' there will be:
 - A new commissioning unit within FACS responsible for ensuring children and families receive the services across government departments;
 - The power, resources and responsibility within the unit to make sure that services are tailored to meet children's and families specific needs;
 - Funding for new evidence based programs which have been internationally tried and tested in over 350 sites; and
 - New outcomes based contracts to deliver the services.

EMERGENCY SERVICES READY TO ROLL

- The NSW Government invested a record budget of \$1.3 billion for Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW State Emergency Services during 2015/2016.
- Fire & Rescue NSW responded to 122,827 emergencies, an average of 337 per day or roughly one call every four minutes. Six fire stations were opened in Ballina, Lambton, Ropes Crossing, Rutherford, Windsor and Yennora as well as major renovations at Pymont and Wingham. A total of 57 new vehicles were commissioned including 20 Class 1 tankers.
- Other key highlights from the emergency services annual reports in 2015/16 include:
 - NSW Rural Fire Service responded to 7,686 bush and grass fires during the fire season;
 - Flood rescue training for an additional 450 NSW State Emergency Services volunteers;
 - Opened more than 60 new NSW Rural Fire Service fire brigades; 40 underwent renovations.
 - During the East Coast Low in June 2016, NSW State Emergency Services responded to 11,000 requests for assistance including 317 flood rescues
 - Fire & Rescue NSW carried out 50,542 community engagement activities about fire safety

NSW HOOKS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST DIGITAL LICENCES

- In an Australian first, NSW residents can download the first ever digital licences on their smartphone or tablet, with the launch of the digital Recreational Fishing Fee (fishing licence), Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) Competency Cards.
- The licences are available through the new 'My Licences' digital wallet in the latest version of the Service NSW app.
- Digital licences can be sighted just like physical licences and authorities can also verify whether a digital licence is current or has conditions using a purpose built checker app.
- To find out more about digital licences, how to set up a MyService NSW account or download the Service NSW app visit www.service.nsw.gov.au