

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 19 August 2016

NSW TARGETS ONE MILLION NEW JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

- Premier Mike Baird has released the Jobs for the Future report which outlines how NSW can reach its target of creating one million new, rewarding jobs by 2036.
- The report outlines financial support programs – paid for out of the \$190 million Jobs for NSW Fund – that will:
 - Help fast-growing, small-to-medium size companies - known as gazelles - to access the funds they need to grow jobs through a \$50 million loan guarantee program and a \$3.5 million direct loan pilot program;
 - Assist start-up companies to flourish into the gazelles of tomorrow by setting aside \$10 million to grow the State's network of incubators and accelerators, and \$3 million in 2016-17 for direct grants to start-ups;
 - Grow regional companies with a dedicated \$30 million program; and
 - Attract large and international companies to base their headquarters in NSW through use of a \$30 million fund.
- The Jobs for the Future report and further information can be viewed at: www.jobsfornsw.com.au

COMFORT COMES FIRST WITH NEW INTERCITY TRAINS

- The NSW Government has signed a \$2.3 billion contract for the build and maintenance of more than 500 new carriages.
- New generation double deck trains will begin rolling onto our railways from 2019, transforming intercity travel for customers in Newcastle, the Central Coast, South Coast and the Blue Mountains.

- New features on the intercity fleet will include:
 - Charging stations for mobile devices on each seat;
 - Two by two seating on upper and lower levels;
 - Wider, fabric covered seats with arm rests and more space;
 - Cup holders and tray tables;
 - Dedicated space for luggage, prams, bicycles and wheelchairs;
 - Accessible toilets; and
 - Digital screens and announcements.

- A concept design for the new trains can be downloaded here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/00g6u6omy0wfj1h/AABObFeFwilPQzGv00QV6U1Za?dl=&0>

RENEWED FOCUS ON STRONGER EDUCATION STANDARDS

- NSW schools, teachers and students will benefit from major changes to the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES).
- BOSTES is responsible for the school curriculum, the HSC, and teaching and regulatory standards in NSW schools. From 2017 it will become the NSW Education Standards Authority.
- The new, modernised agency will:
 - Be led by a streamlined board of up to 14 educational leaders;
 - Introduce random, risk-based school inspections and thematic reviews;
 - Identify schools needing support to meet regulatory requirements;
 - Ensure teachers have more curriculum flexibility to engage students with deeper learning, using regularly updated syllabuses particularly in technology rich subjects like IT and STEM.
- The NSW Government is committed to higher standards in education and improving results for every student.

NSW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 5.2 PER CENT

- ABS figures show NSW unemployment rate has dropped by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.2% in July – meaning NSW has achieved the lowest unemployment among the states for a 14th consecutive month.
- The second lowest unemployment rate was 5.9% in Victoria while the national unemployment rate fell by 0.1 to 5.7%.

- The NSW Government is working hard to create even more jobs and opportunities across the State and to ensure we retain our position as the nation's number one economy.

WORK STARTS ON \$20 MILLION NSW RUGBY LEAGUE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AT SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK

- Major work has started on the \$20 million New South Wales Rugby League Centre of Excellence at Sydney Olympic Park which is set to deliver highest quality training facilities and will ensure the future success of Rugby League in NSW.
- The NSW Government's funding of \$10 million towards the facility highlights a strong commitment to grow Sydney Olympic Park as a sporting and business gateway to Western Sydney.
- The new facility – expected to be completed in late 2017 – joins other state of the art sporting at Sydney Olympic Park including the GWS Giants training centre and Netball Central which is home to the NSW Swifts and second Sydney Team which will compete in the 2017 National Netball League.

NEW POLICE RECRUITS TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY SAFE

- The NSW Government is making good on its promise to deliver record numbers of police officers with more than 200 new officers will soon be deployed across NSW.
- With 'Class 328' graduating this week, the number of newly sworn officers joining the force since 2011 is now 3,629.
- The 208 newly sworn in Probationary Constables will spend a year under the supervision of experienced officers and continue online learning before graduating with an Associate Diploma in Policing Practice.

PARRAMATTA PARK NEW HOME OF TROPFEST

- The world class heritage venue Parramatta Park will become the new home of Tropfest, the world's short film festival in a three-year deal aimed at securing the long term future of the iconic event.
- Greater Western Sydney – now home to more than 2 million people – has seen extraordinary growth in recent years and is still growing, making Parramatta a great place for a major event like Tropfest.
- Tropfest will be held on Saturday 11 February 2017 and Tropfest Jr will be held on 10 February 2017.

- Tropfest is free to attend and Parramatta park is easily accessible by public transport.