

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 2 SEPTEMBER 2016**

### **NEW MANAGEMENT FOR WENTWORTH PARK: PUBLIC USE TO CONTINUE**

- An administrator has been appointed to manage the ongoing public use of Wentworth Park Sporting Complex.
- The five year term of the previous community board of the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust expired on 26 May 2016 necessitating the appointment of an administrator to manage the affairs of the Trust.
- The NSW Government's commitment regarding the Wentworth Park site is clear – existing greyhound tracks on Crown Land will be repurposed as open public space, alternative sporting facilities or for other community uses.

### **CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY ON FIRST SYDNEY METRO STATION PLATFORM, TUNNEL TENDERS CALLED**

- Construction is now underway on the first station platform at Cudgegong Road – one of 31 metro stations along the 65km Sydney Metro route - and tenders have been called for tunnelling under Sydney Harbour.
- The Cudgegong Road Station platform is 187m long, 8m wide, will service a train every four minutes in the peak and the station will also have 1,000 commuter car parking spaces.
- Two shortlisted consortia have been invited to tender to build the twin metro tunnels under Sydney Harbour with the NSW Government expecting to award the contracts to build the tunnels around half way through next year.
- New vision of the construction of Cudgegong Road Station can be viewed here: <https://app.frame.io/f/zdjbCpW8>

## **FREE TRAINING CHANGING LIVES**

- More than 28,000 people have taken up free Vocational Training to help them get their first job, or retrain for a new job under the NSW Government's \$48 million Fee Free Scholarship program.
- Since the launch of the fee free scholarship initiative in July 2015, more than 28,000 students, including over 17,000 women, have taken to the opportunity to choose from more than 590 qualifications from Certificate I to Certificate IV level for their training.
- Students with enquiries about Fee-Free Scholarship eligibility should contact Training Services NSW Customer Support Centre on 1300 772 104 or email [smartandskilled.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:smartandskilled.enquiries@industry.nsw.gov.au)

## **\$237M INVESTMENT IN REDUCING REOFFENDING**

- The NSW Government will deliver a \$237 million investment in reducing reoffending which will target persistent domestic violence defendants and other high risk offenders and ensure that inmates serving sentences of six months or less for any crime participate in rehabilitation programs.
- The reoffending strategy will expand participation in violence, addiction and sex offender programs for prisoners and parolees in the community, introduce one on one case management and intervention for priority DV defendants after they are charged but before they are sentenced, and improve training for staff.
- It will also establish 10 high intensity program units to deliver rehabilitation programs to about 1,200 prisoners each year serving short sentences of six months or less.
- Higher risk offenders will be subject to increased supervision at all stages of their sentence and there is also funding to improve exit planning and reintegration support such as housing and employment for offenders leaving prison on parole.

## **2016 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

- 78 councils will hold elections on September 10 and 48 councils have had their elections deferred until next year.
- Newly formed councils, and councils subject to merger proposals, have had their elections deferred until next year and people enrolled in those councils will not be required to vote on September 10.

- Anyone who is uncertain about whether they are required to vote on September 10 can check their enrolment details by visiting [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info).

## **NEW HOUSING APPROVALS SOAR IN NSW**

- New ABS data shows the State's housing supply will get a huge boost after the number of new homes given the greenlight rose 27.8% in July.
- The official figures showed that 7,389 new dwellings were approved in July – the highest result since July 2015.
- There have been 70,861 new homes given the greenlight over the past 12 months in NSW.
- The NSW Government is working hard to deliver a simpler, more efficient planning system to support increased housing supply.

## **HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF THE FAR WEST**

- Communities and councils across Far Western NSW are being invited to provide feedback on a proposed new governance model for the region.
- The Far West Initiative consultation and background paper, which includes an analysis of the complex challenges and opportunities facing the region and a number of options for strengthening Far West communities.
- Feedback on the paper will play a vital role in determining the future governance of the Far West and in shaping the next steps in developing the Far West Initiative.
- Further details on the consultation and background paper can be found at [www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au/far-west-initiative](http://www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au/far-west-initiative)

## **INTERNATIONAL VISITORS SPEND \$9.1 BILLION IN NSW**

- Tourism Research Australia figures highlight international visitors to NSW spent more than \$9 billion for the first time – up 18% on the previous year.
- In the year to June 2016 there were 3.6 million overseas visitors who stayed almost 87 million nights and spent \$9.1 billion in NSW – more than 35% higher than any other state and close to 50% more overnight stays.

- Tourism has a massive impact on employment with analysis highlighting NSW tourism supports almost 270,000 jobs with around two thirds employed in one of the State's 93,600 tourism businesses.