

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 21 OCTOBER 2016

OUTSTANDING RESULT ACHIEVED IN \$16.189 BILLION AUSGRID LEASE

- The NSW Government has achieved another outstanding result in its infrastructure program, entering into a binding agreement with an all-Australian consortium for the partial lease of Ausgrid.
- The transaction will deliver gross proceeds of \$16.189 billion to the State and will help fund critical infrastructure projects as part of the Government's \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan.
- This transaction – as well as the successful \$10.258 billion lease of TransGrid – will fund new schools, hospitals, public transport and roads that will make a real difference to people and their communities across NSW.
- The NSW Government will retain 49.6 per cent of Ausgrid and will have an ongoing role as the lessor of the business and an investor. In addition, the State will continue its roles as licensor and safety and reliability regulator of Ausgrid. Ausgrid will also continue to be regulated by the Australian Energy Regulator which determines network prices.

\$219 MILLION BOOST FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED IT MOST

- NSW public schools will receive a record \$219 million in additional needs based education funding in 2017, made possible by NSW signing the Gonski agreement.
- In NSW public schools, consistent with the Gonski recommendations, needs-based funding is distributed under the Resource Allocation Model (RAM), which uses information about student need to deliver resources where they are needed most.
- The NSW Government is ensuring that more funding than ever is going directly to schools so principals are able to target resources and better meet the needs of their students.

PROGRESS ON HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

- The NSW Government's health partnerships proposal to build upgraded hospitals at Maitland, Wyong and Shellharbour hospitals, and to investigate a shared infrastructures solution at Bowral will progress to the next stage.
- Under the health partnerships approach, successful operators for Wyong, Shellharbour and Maitland would construct the hospitals then run them on behalf of the NSW Government with bigger and better facilities and more nurses and doctors – local communities can continue to access free public health, but in better facilities.
- These projects will now move to the evaluation stage which involves structured negotiations to discuss key government positions, with this stage expected to be complete by early 2017.

IMPROVED ACQUISITION PROCESS TO GIVE LANDOWNERS A FAIRER GO

- Homeowners whose properties are needed for public infrastructure will be given more information, more time, more support, and almost \$50,000 in additional compensation under a major overhaul of the land acquisition process in NSW.
- Unveiled as a part of the NSW Government's response to reviews by David Russell QC and Customer Service Commissioner Mike Pratt, the reforms include:
 - Dedicated case managers to help landowners understand their rights
 - A 6-month period before the compulsory process commences, to provide a clear opportunity for landowners to agree a fair amount of compensation
 - Increased compensation of up to \$75,000 (up from \$27,235) for the inconvenience and stress of having to move home backdated to February 2014
 - Removing the requirement for property owners to pay rent during the three months they are entitled to remain in the property after it is compulsorily acquired
 - A first right to repurchase the acquired property if is no longer needed
 - Giving the Minister for Finance, Services and Property responsibility for general oversight of acquisitions across Government
 - A new 'Property Acquisition Standards Group' in the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, to set whole-of-government standards for acquisition processes and resources and better track acquisitions
 - A whole-of-government Centre of Excellence for Resident Engagement in Transport for NSW to train government staff involved in acquisition, focusing on landowners' needs and proactively providing advice and assistance
- More information about the NSW Government's reforms of the land acquisition process can be found at www.landacquisition.nsw.gov.au

NSW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 4.9%

- ABS figures have confirmed that NSW has the strongest jobs market in the nation with unemployment falling to a four year low.
- Falling 0.1% to 4.9% in September, unemployment in NSW is well below the national result of 5.6%.
- In the 12 months to September 68,900 new jobs were added in NSW.
- The NSW Government is investing in quality infrastructure and services and this is continuing to deliver strong results for jobs and our economy.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM GETS YOUTH ON TRACK

- Police and teachers will refer young offenders to early intervention services as part of a \$14.5 million program to help break the cycle of crime.
- The 'Youth on Track' program is designed to coordinate services for 10-17 year olds at risk of long term involvement in the criminal justice system and will be expanded to Coffs Harbour, Clarence, New England and Central West from December.
- Almost 90% of young people who have participated in 'Youth on Track' have either stabilised or reduced their contact with Police and 53% reduced their offending risk factors after three months.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR ASSET RECYCLING TO GET NSW MOVING

- New research has shown strong support for the NSW Government's approach to recycling property assets with a Galaxy poll of 1,000 NSW residents found just 9% opposed to the sale or lease of property assets to pay for infrastructure and better services.
- The Government's property recycling approach affects only a small fraction – around 1.5 per cent – of the state's \$130 billion property portfolio, allowing proceeds from properties that are no longer fit for purpose, underutilised, or not necessary for strategic or service delivery purposes to be reinvested in new facilities, infrastructure and services.
- Making better use of NSW's property assets is just one of the reasons this Government has been able to clear the state's debt completely, without raising taxes or going into debt, and all while delivering record infrastructure and services.

NEWS VISION ALERT: SYDNEY METRO TRACK LAYING STEAMS AHEAD

- The first look at track laying operations on Sydney Metro has been revealed with major milestones reached in the delivery of Sydney's world class metro railway.
- Achievements at Sydney Metro HQ at Rouse Hill include:
 - Almost 5km of railway tracks have been laid;
 - More than 5,000 sleepers are in place;
 - 13,000 tonnes of rock ballast have been laid; and
 - More than 2.5km of overhead wiring has been installed.
- When Stage 2 of Sydney Metro is operational in 2024, including under Sydney Harbour and through the CBD, the Rouse Hill facility will also maintain the extra trains needed to service the entire 66km line to Bankstown.

\$32 MILLION TO SUPPORT TEENS WITH CRISIS CARE

- Young teens who turn to homelessness services will be better supported with 24/7 safe accommodation and increased resources to reunite them with their families, or appropriate longer term carers.
- The \$32 million Homeless Youth Assistance Program is funded to June 2020, covers every region in NSW and will offer services such as:
 - More safe and secure accommodation;
 - 24/7 support and assistance;
 - Casework support for young people and their families; and
 - Practical assistance to meet costs for travel, school or personal items.
- Combatting youth homelessness and helping young people successfully move from crisis care to long term accommodation is a priority of the NSW Government.

NEW CORRECTIONS OFFICERS JOIN THE RANKS

- More than 100 recruits have completed their training and will join the ranks of Corrective Services NSW as part of a \$3.8 billion expansion of the state's correctional system.
- These new positions are a key part of a commitment to have a 5% reduction in re-offending in 2019.

- The NSW Government's investment in prison infrastructure will create an additional 2,300 additional jobs as well as new prisons in Wellington, Cessnock, Emu Plains and Grafton as well as additional beds being added to existing facilities in other locations.