

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 22 JULY 2016

TUNNELLING BEGINS ON WESTCONNEX M4 EAST

- The first of four road headers has started work underground to create the 5.5km tunnels which will link Homebush with Haberfield in the first stage of WestConnex.
- This critical infrastructure project will transform Sydney by joining the M4 and M5 in a continuous motorway with connections at Rozelle, Camperdown, St Peters and Sydney Airport.
- The tunnels will be among the widest in the southern hemisphere and will allow for a safer and quicker journey for motorists currently stuck at the end of the M4, bypassing a heavily congested section of Parramatta Road.
- WestConnex will deliver more than \$20 billion in benefits to NSW and will create 10,000 jobs during construction.

NEW INNER WEST PARK AND TUNNEL LINK ANNOUNCED

- The NSW Government has announced new details of the concept design for the WestConnex interchange at Rozelle.
- An underground connection will be built to take traffic off congested Victoria Road – primarily under the disused former Rozelle Rail Yards – which will allow for the majority of the interchange to be grassed over with a large new park and returned to the community.
- The new tunnelled connection to the Iron Cove Bridge will be built within the existing WestConnex budget as part of the Rozelle Interchange and motorists will be able to travel through the tunnel from the Iron Cove Bridge to the Anzac Bridge or onto other sections of the WestConnex network, via the interchange.

- The NSW Government will be seeking feedback from the community on the concept design for the interchange.

USA AND NSW TO SHARE CANCER RESEARCH

- An historic agreement has been signed that will open the door to greater collaboration in cancer research between New South Wales and the United States.
- The US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and NSW Government formalised an agreement to work together on the Cancer Moonshot initiative, which was announced by President Obama in his State of the Union address in January 2016.
- As part of the agreement, the NSW Government will inject \$6 million into a joint project between the Children's Medical Research Institute and Garvan Institute of Medical Research, which house the Southern Hemisphere's most advanced programs in cancer proteomics and genomics.
- A Joint Steering Committee will be established to meet at least once a year to oversee the implementation of the MOU and develop ongoing collaborative research.

MODERNISED HSC SETS STUDENTS UP FOR SUCCESS

- The NSW Government has announced wide-reaching reforms to the HSC to improve the learning experience for students and boost the standard of NSW school graduates.
- From 2020, students will need to demonstrate they have met a minimum standard in both literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC.
- Other HSC reforms, which will come into effect for Year 12 students in 2019, will:
 - Introduce better, fairer assessments to reduce excessive student stress;
 - Introduce a Science Extension course, and encourage more students to study Maths at the highest possible level;
 - Update the syllabuses in English, Maths, Science and History; and
 - Update exam questions to encourage deeper analysis.
- For more information visit boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/stronger-hsc-standards

FUNDING BOOST TO HELP REGIONAL NSW GET NDIS – READY

- More than 130 disability service providers in regional and remote NSW will benefit from a \$4 million funding boost to help them get ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- The NSW Government's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) offered grants of up to \$35,000 to help providers, with less than \$3 million in annual turnover, with readiness activities like updating business plans or purchasing software.
- Since 2011, the NSW Government has invested more than \$30 million in sector and workforce development to prepare for the NDIS.
- Since 1 July 2016 people living in the Hunter New England, Southern NSW, Central Coast, Northern Sydney, South Western Sydney, Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains have been able to access the NDIS and from 1 July 2017 the NDIS will be in place across the rest of NSW.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR TAXI INDUSTRY ADJUSTMENT PAYMENTS

- Taxi licence holders can now apply for \$20,000 transitional assistance payments from the first stage of the NSW Government's \$250 million industry adjustment package.
- The assistance includes:
 - \$98 million for payments of \$20,000 per ordinary and transferrable licence, for up to two licences, for licences held before 1 July 2015;
 - \$142 million for taxi licences facing hardship as a result of the changes; and
 - Up to \$10 million for a buy-back scheme for perpetual hire car licences.
- The NSW Government will write to more than 4,000 eligible licence holders telling them how to apply.
- Visit www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 661 539 to find out more.

NSW: NATION'S NUMBER ONE ECONOMIC PERFORMER

- NSW remains the top economic performer according to the latest ANZ Stateometer and continues to drive the national economy.
- The Stateometer report measures economic performance across the states and territories each month and confirms the NSW economy has gone from strength to strength.

- NSW has had the lowest unemployment rate of any state for more than a year and has been responsible for creating more jobs over the last 12 months than all the other states combined.

NSW GOVERNMENT SIGNS NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH QANTAS

- The NSW Government and Qantas have announced a new three year, \$28 million partnership aimed at driving additional tourism growth by promoting Sydney and regional NSW to the world.
- This partnership will drive further visitor growth to NSW by showcasing all this state has to offer through joint advertising campaigns, social media, database marketing, trade partner campaigns as well as trade and media opportunities.
- As part of the new agreement, Destination NSW and Qantas will launch a Virtual Reality, three stage, digital marketing project aimed at driving early booking to Vivid Sydney 2017 – the world’s largest festival of light, music and ideas.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON MOORE PARK’S FUTURE

- The NSW Government has announced that a draft masterplan for Moore Park will be on public exhibition until 25 September 2016.
- The draft masterplan aims to improve the park’s accessibility, create recreation opportunities, enhance green space and improve traffic flow and parking within the park and surrounding neighbourhoods.
- The draft masterplan is available at www.moorepark.sydney