

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 26 August 2016

BETTER ANIMAL WELFARE FOR NSW

- The NSW Parliament has passed the Greyhound Racing Prohibition Bill 2016 by 49 votes to 30.
- The bill is the direct consequence of a report by the Special Commission of Inquiry into Greyhound Racing which found compelling evidence of systemic animal cruelty in greyhound racing and concluded there was a culture of cover-up in the industry.
- The Special Commission recommended that the Parliament should consider ending greyhound racing in NSW and this has been acted on by the NSW Government.
- Under the terms of the Bill, greyhound racing in NSW will close on 1 July 2017.

AUSGRID TRANSACTION

- Following the Federal Government's decision in relation to the current bidders, the NSW Government will now move immediately to relaunch the transaction process for the partial lease of Ausgrid.
- There will be no delays to our infrastructure pipeline and the commitments we made to the people of NSW to transform this state.
- We have always said that the proceeds of the Ausgrid transaction will be booked in the 2017-18 NSW Budget and that remains the case.

A POLICE FORCE FOR THE FUTURE

- The NSW Police Force will be reengineered to prepare it to protect the community into the future with a focus on the evolving terrorism threat and the scourge of ice and other crimes impacting on suburban and regional communities.

- The first phase of a new enhanced executive structure will see the creation of five executive positions which will report directly to the Commissioner and will be in charge of leading further reform in their areas of responsibility to make sure the force's structure moves with shifting demographics and changing crime trends.
- The new positions are:
 - A Deputy Commissioner for Metropolitan Field Operations;
 - A Deputy Commissioner for Regional NSW Field Operations;
 - A Deputy Commissioner for Investigations and Counter Terrorism;
 - A Deputy Commissioner for Specialist Support; and
 - An Executive in charge of Corporate Services.

CLICK AND REJECT: OPAL DATA GIVES CUSTOMERS OPTION TO AVOID THE BUS CRUSH

- Peak hour bus commuters will now have the option to see how full their bus is before it arrives, giving customers the option to either jump on or wait for the next service.
- Travel App 'NextThere' is now live and will give customers more timely information and show whether their bus is empty, has seating or is crowded.
- The new functionality is a direct result of the Future Transport program launched in April with more transport apps including TripView, Metrarove, Arrivo and TripGo expected to access the data to provide additional information for their users in future updates.

REAL-TIME FUEL PRICE WEBSITE TO EMPOWER MOTORISTS

- The NSW Government has launched FuelCheck, an innovative website providing accurate, reliable, real time information about fuel prices at every service station across NSW.
- The raw data is available for use by the community so that third party services can create their own apps and services, in accordance with the NSW Government's commitment to open data.
- FuelCheck is currently in Beta version and consumers are encouraged to provide feedback about the accuracy and functionality to NSW Fair Trading.
- FuelCheck is accessible on any device connected to the internet and can be accessed at www.fuelcheck.nsw.gov.au.

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION HITS ALL TIME HIGH

- Recent ABS data shows that residential construction activity in NSW has hit an all time high in the latest sign of the State's unprecedented rise in housing supply.
- Real residential construction over the past year reached \$19.4 billion – the highest level on record.
- In the year to the June quarter 2016, total building (which includes residential and non-residential building) exceeded \$30 billion in NSW for the first time.
- Total construction work in NSW in the last year rose by 8.6% over the previous year – the fastest rate of any state.

CLEAR VISION FOR FUTURE OF FORESTRY INDUSTRY

- The NSW Government has released the *NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap*, a strategic action plan to build a stronger, more competitive and ecologically sustainable forestry industry.
- The *Roadmap* includes strategic actions around four key pillars:
 - Regulatory modernisation;
 - Balancing supply and demand;
 - Improving community understanding and confidence; and
 - Industry innovation and new markets.
- The NSW forestry industry has operated for more than 100 years and employs more than 22,000 people – the *Roadmap* will help the NSW Government achieve its objective of creating 150,000 jobs (30,000 of which will be in regional NSW) and increase the value of primary industries by 30% by 2020.
- To view the *Roadmap* or find out more information visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/forestry-roadmap

JOBS BOOM FOR WOMEN IN REGIONAL NSW

- New data from the Department of Industry shows that women in regional NSW are securing jobs at record rates with approximately 37,000 women securing work in the year to July 2016 (12 month moving average) compared to an average of 9,500 a year over recent years.
- Jobs growth in regional NSW was more than three times the result in regional Victoria while the number of regional jobs in Queensland and Western Australia.

- The NSW Government is working hard to increase the number of women in well paid jobs that have been traditionally been performed by men – so far over 17,200 women have taken up our Fee Free Scholarships for Government-funded vocational education and training.

OVER \$2 MILLION FOR LOCAL CRIME AND SAFETY SOLUTIONS

- Fourteen community projects designed to reduce criminal and anti-social behaviour in towns and cities across the state have been awarded over \$2 million in funding through the NSW Government Community Safety Fund.
- Projects to receive funding in the first round of the new scheme include domestic violence behaviour change programs, installation of CCTV and lighting, road safety education programs and a Midnight Basketball initiative.
- Applications were received from non-government or not-for-profit organisations, community groups, chambers of commerce and businesses to implement local crime prevention initiatives up to the value of \$250,000 and were assessed by an independent panel.
- Further information is available at: <http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au>

PUT IN YOUR 10 CENTS' WORTH ON DEPOSIT SCHEME

- The NSW Government has released draft legislation on the 10-cent container deposit scheme for public consultation, marking yet another step towards the biggest initiative to tackle litter in the State's history becoming a reality.
- The scheme, which will mean eligible drink containers between 150 ml and three litres can be returned for a 10 cent refund, is scheduled to roll out across the state in July 2017.
- A draft bill and discussion paper, on public exhibition until Wednesday 21 September 2016, aims to provide details to the public on how the scheme is proposed to work.
- The documents can be viewed - and comments submitted – online at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/cds-draft-bill-consultation.htm

AUDIT OFFICE RED TAPE REDUCTION REPORT

- The NSW Government has welcomed the Audit Office's recommendations in relation to red tape reduction.

- The majority of the recommendations made by the Audit Office are supported by the NSW Government including:
 - The establishment of the Better Regulation Division within the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation who will take whole-of-government responsibility for oversight of red tape and regulatory reform;
 - Maintaining a central public repository for records of significant regulatory impact assessments; and
 - Introducing annual reporting of regulatory reform measures to Parliament.

- The NSW Government has already introduced a number of initiatives designed to reduce red tape for businesses and citizens, including Service NSW, the Easy to do Business Program and the Commerce Regulation Program.