

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 27 MAY 2016

DEVELOPING GATEWAYS TO THE NSW SOUTH COAST

- The NSW Government has committed to expanding the Port of Eden and redeveloping Merimbula Airport to increase interstate and international tourism and trade in the region.
- The \$44 million Port of Eden expansion will enable the world's largest cruise ships to dock on the NSW Far South Coast and will create 86 ongoing jobs in the tourism, hospitality, aquaculture and stevedoring sectors.
- The \$5.6 million upgrade of Merimbula Airport will enable larger planes to regularly service the Far South Coast from interstate capitals.
- The NSW Government is committed to delivering services that will unleash the economic potential of Regional NSW.

\$2.5 MILLION TO RELOCATE BATEMANS BAY BATS

- The NSW Government announced \$2.5 million to relocate a troublesome flying fox colony in Batemans Bay.
- The NSW Government has also pledged an additional \$1 million to manage other flying fox trouble spots around NSW. Funding will be available to local councils.
- The grey headed flying foxes are a protected species and the funding will assist with relocating and dispersing colonies and managing new sites for bats to stop them camping in trouble spots.

DRIVING TOWARDS ZERO

- The NSW Government has launched a new advertising campaign Towards Zero to help drive down crashes and fatalities on our roads.
- The Towards Zero campaign seeks to start a conversation about the personal impact of the road toll and highlight that everyone has a role to play in preventing road fatalities.
- A number of targeted initiatives will also be implemented to address emerging road safety issues:
 - Acceleration of \$20 million to roll out rumble strips, wide centre lines and crash barriers across NSW;
 - \$250,000 for an in-ground traffic light technology trial at key crossings in the CBD;
 - \$5 million over three years for up to 2000 vehicle-activated signs to warn drivers when they are speeding or approaching hazards.
- The NSW Government will continue to invest in improved infrastructure, greater police enforcement, education campaigns and vehicle safety measures and technology to try and save lives on our roads.

\$2 MILLION FUNDING BOOST TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

- Over \$2 million will be made available for initiatives to better recruit, support and recognise volunteers in NSW.
- Funding follows the release of the second NSW Volunteering Strategy 2016-2020 which has identified six priority areas to make it easier for people to volunteer and support the two million people who already volunteer in NSW.
- As part of the NSW Volunteering Strategy, a new volunteer recruitment website will be developed to help volunteers find opportunities in their local communities and allow organisations to advertise volunteering roles.

FUNDING FOR VITAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN NEW COUNCILS

- Local junior sporting teams, neighbourhood centres, men's sheds and other community groups in newly formed councils will be able to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 through the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund.
- Under the Fund, new councils will get up to \$15 million to kick-start the delivery of priority infrastructure and services for their local community. As

well as investing in local community projects, the new council will also invest in larger scale projects to deliver long-term economic and social benefits.

- Guidelines for the new Stronger Communities Fund are available from the Office of Local Government website at: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/>.

MORE FUNDING TO HELP PEOPLE GET NDIS READY

- The NSW Government is investing an additional \$3 million to help people with disability and their families get ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- The additional investment will enable the My Choice Matters community development fund to continue until June 2018.
- My Choice Matters was created to help people with disabilities and their families prepare for and participate in the NDIS by providing access to workshops, resources and e-learning tools.
- More than 17,000 people have already benefited from participating in My Choice Matters and other capacity building projects.

NSW LEADING THE NATION ON EXPORTING SERVICES

- NSW has cemented its place as Australia's leading exporter of services recording over half of Australia's growth according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures.
- In 2015, NSW contributed \$3.2 billion in export services growth, over half of Australia's total growth.
- NSW expertise in telecommunication, computer information services, financial and other professional services continues to be in strong demand globally. Financial services exports grew by 28 per cent to \$2.9 billion, while our ICT exports grew by 59 per cent last year to \$1.5 billion.
- The NSW Government has made trade and investment a priority and developed a strategy to open up export opportunities to priority markets in Asia.

COMPLETION RATES, APPRENTICESHIP APPROVALS UP

- Vocational education students in NSW are successfully completing their training at twice the rate of students in other States.
- Early figures show that 79 per cent of students enrolled in Government subsidised places with private providers completed their courses. By comparison, the national estimated completion rate for government subsidised training is 34 per cent.
- The NSW Government is committed to helping young people into jobs by directing funding towards course which are most likely to lead to employment.
- There are over 740 courses on the NSW Skills List which are critical to growing our economy, and the NSW Government pays up to 75 per cent of the student cost to enrol in those courses.

BRIGHT MINDS PUT TO TASK TO HELP PROTECT OUR BEACHGOERS

- The NSW Government has called on the world's best minds to help develop innovative projects to protect beachgoers from shark attacks.
- There is no one solution for detecting and deterring sharks which is why the NSW Government is determined to fund emerging technologies.
- The NSW Government is offering a total of \$200,000 to support national or international projects which can increase protection for beachgoers.
- Grants are open to national and international applicants, and joint applications are encouraged. More information is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/sharks

NSW THE STRONGEST STATE FOR REGIONAL JOBS GROWTH

- Regional NSW has experienced outstanding employment growth over the past 12 months with jobs growing at twice the national rate.
- The official ABS labour force data showed that 54,900 jobs were added in the regions in the year to April, an increase of 4.6 per cent.
- Regional highlights include the Greater Illawarra (up 7.6 per cent), Richmond-Tweed (up 11.1 per cent), the Central Coast (up 19.5 per cent) and the Hunter including Newcastle and Lake Macquarie (up 10.1 per cent).

- The NSW Government's support for vital investment in skills and infrastructure is giving regional businesses the confidence to invest and create new jobs.