

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 28 OCTOBER 2016

COMMSEC STATE OF THE STATES: NSW NUMBER ONE FOR NINE CONSECUTIVE QUARTERS

- CommSec's State of the States report has revealed NSW has continued its run as the nation's number one economy for nine consecutive quarters.
- The report comes after ABS confirmed that the NSW unemployment rate fell to 4.9% - the lowest among the states.
- CommSec also found business investment increased by 10.7% in NSW over the last year – more than six times the next strongest state (Victoria).
- The NSW Government has worked hard over the past 5 years to repair the budget, build infrastructure and provide the quality services our state needs.

SHARK NET TRIAL LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

- The NSW Government will introduce a bill to the NSW Parliament to legalise a six-month trial of traditional shark nets on the North Coast.
- The proposed NSW legislation will streamline an approvals process, which is currently spread across various NSW Acts. The Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* will continue to apply.
- DPI has commenced procurement of nets and started negotiations with contractors, to allow immediate roll-out following approval from the Commonwealth and the passage of the legislation through the NSW Parliament.
- For more information about the \$16 million Shark Management Strategy, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/sharks/shark-management.

VEHICLE TRANSACTIONS GO MOBILE ON SERVICE NSW APP

- Customers can now complete the most popular transactions for their vehicles on their mobile devices following the latest update to the popular Service NSW app.
- Customers with a linked MyServiceNSW account can renew their vehicle registration, receive alerts, view or pay vehicle fines, update their licence details, and now complete notice of disposal requests.
- With the upcoming launch of digital licences, customers will be able to carry virtual licences on their phones, further reducing the threat of mail theft.
- More than 750,000 customers have now signed up for a MyServiceNSW account so far. For more information, visit www.service.nsw.gov.au. To download the mobile app, visit the iTunes Store or Google Play.

APPRENTICE BOOST FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

- A purpose built WestConnex training academy will deliver training to more than 1500 workers, including 400 apprenticeships and trainees, during construction of the project, in partnership with providers such as TAFE NSW.
- WestConnex will target Western Sydney residents who are long-term unemployed, Indigenous workers, and those retrenched from other industries for recruitment as apprentices and trainees.
- WestConnex will be the third project to be included in the NSW Government's Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program, which sets firm employment and training targets for major projects.

NEW COUNTRY TRAIN PROGRAM ACCELERATED

- Replacement of the ageing regional rail fleet, starting with new XPTs, will be accelerated with \$50 million to speed up delivery of new trains and improve comfort and reliability.
- This funding will see the procurement process for new XPTs kicking off in the first half of next year – two years earlier than promised. The acceleration is expected to allow contracts for the new fleet to be signed in this term of Government.
- The new fleet will replace the 60 XPT passenger cars currently operating on the NSW TrainLink network, taking customers between Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane

and Dubbo, and going through regional towns including Bathurst, Orange, Taree, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Casino, Goulburn and Albury.

- Opportunities to replace more than 50 XPLOER and Endeavour trains that serve other key regional destinations like Armidale, Moree, Griffith, Broken Hill, Canberra, the Hunter and South Coast (between Kiama and Bomaderry), will also be investigated as part of the work.
- Each year, about one million customer journeys are taken on our XPTs, they travel around 3.5 million kilometres and have been in operation for about 35 years.

10-YEAR PLAN FOR IMPROVED AIR QUALITY

- The NSW Government is encouraging the community to comment on a proposed 10-year plan aimed at improving air quality across the state.
- The Clean Air for NSW consultation paper sets out the NSW Government's priority areas for air quality improvement and outlines how industry, government, community groups and residents can work together to benefit the environment.
- Some priority actions identified in the Clean Air for NSW paper include:
 - A review of air quality monitoring networks to improve understanding of pollution issues;
 - Improved forecasting and advice during hazard reduction burning; and
 - Hosting a Clean Air Summit in Sydney within six months to allow stakeholders the opportunity to provide direct feedback on Clean Air for NSW.
- Public submissions are open until Friday, 20 January 2017. The NSW EPA will manage the consultation process. Read the consultation paper and have your say at the EPA website: <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/EPAconsult/>.