

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 29 JULY 2016

NEW PLAN FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN NSW

- The NSW Government has launched the first ever strategic plan which will help ensure children and young people in NSW have opportunities to thrive, get the services they need and have their voice heard.
- Key commitments under The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People include:
 - Investing an additional \$900,000 in extra resources for the Office of the Advocate to further undertake his statutory responsibilities on behalf of children and young people across NSW;
 - \$700,000 to develop a website to connect children and young people to local services and opportunities to further integrate into their local communities;
 - Develop a Quality Assessors program to train children and young people to review services and provide feedback directly to government; and
 - Further embedding the participation of children and young people in NSW Government consultations.
- Furthermore, 2016-17 NSW Budget measures which align with key components of the Plan include investing \$190 million over four years to reform the children protection and out-of-home care system, investing \$100 million over two years to implement the Smart, Skilled and Hired initiative, and investing \$40 million over four years to better address youth homelessness.

LIFTING ACCESSIBILITY TO SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE

- The Sydney Harbour Bridge will soon become more accessible with planning underway to install lifts at Kirribilli and The Rocks to ensure everybody can experience Australia's most recognisable landmark.

- Roads and Maritime Services has carried out extensive work to investigate preferred locations for the lift access, taking into account the heritage value, accessibility standards, visual impacts and integration with the existing structure.
- Community consultation, detailed design and environmental assessment is expected to take around 12 months with construction to start soon after pending planning and heritage approvals.

NSW GOVERNMENT PROMOTES RENEWABLE ENERGY

- The NSW Government has confirmed its commitment to renewable energy by launching the State's first Renewable Energy Map and an initiative called 'GreenPower Connect' which is designed to drive investment in renewable energy projects across Australia.
- The Renewable Energy Resource Map provides renewable energy project developers with free access to geospatial data and information on the state's renewable energy resources, giving students, investors contractors, market researchers, planners and academics an important tool for use in their investigations.
- GreenPower Connect is aimed at meeting the needs of large energy purchasers and will support greater investment in new large scale renewable energy projects by allowing large purchasers to directly link more cost effectively with new projects and have their purchases recognised as GreenPower accredited renewable energy.
- The Renewable Energy Map is available at <http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-supply-industry/renewable-energy/renewable-resources-map>

FISHERS' CONCERNS ADDRESSED AS PART OF REFORM

- The NSW Government has announced amendments to the commercial Fisheries Businesses Adjustment Program in direct response to concerns raised by the industry.
- Key changes include the timing of Interim Total Commercial Access Levels and the need to accommodate unendorsed fishers.
- The NSW Government has also engaged an independent facilitator to advise of other issues regarding implementation of the Business Adjustment Program that should be considered which will include working with industry on the establishment of a new Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council.

- Fishers will be supported in adjusting to the changes with a \$16 million fund which provides fishing business buyouts of \$20,000.

32 NEW QUALIFICATIONS ON THE 2017 NSW SKILLS LIST

- The NSW Government has announced 32 new qualifications will be added to the Skills List for 2017 – adding to the 730 subsidised vocational education and training courses currently on offer.
- The Skills List defines the qualifications eligible for government funding and reflects the need to reinvigorate and modernise courses available to students while meeting the specialised skills needed by industry.
- The 2017 Skills List will support NSW Government priorities such as the \$73.3 billion infrastructure program, the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and will also support the take-up of qualifications in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects which are critical for the workforce of the future.

LISTENING STATIONS HEADING TO THE STATE'S SOUTH

- The NSW South Coast will receive five VR4G listening stations as part of the NSW Government's \$16 million Shark Management Strategy to better detect and deter sharks.
- Listening stations will be installed at Kiama, Sussex Inlet, Mollymook, Batemans Bay and Merimbula on the South Coast with a further five to be installed at Crescent Head, Old Bar, Hawks Nest, Redhead and Bondi.
- The purpose built listening stations operate by registering a tagged shark which swims within approximately 500 metres of the station and an alert is sent to Twitter @NSWSharkSmart and the NSW Government's Shark Smart app.
- Ten listening stations are already in place between Tweed and Forster, on the state's North Coast North Coast. To date, 29 sharks and 88 bull sharks have been tagged in a collaborative effort between NSW DPI Shark Biologists and CSIRO.