

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

SUPERCARS TO RACE IN NEWCASTLE FOR FIRST TIME

- Newcastle has been named the new host city for the series final of the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship for the next five years.
- The Coates Hire Newcastle 500 will be the first Supercars race ever held in Newcastle and is another major event secured for Regional NSW.
- The race is expected to inject more than \$57 million to the Hunter region over the next five years, and attract 81,000 domestic and international visitors.
- The inaugural event will take place in November 2017.

WESTERN NSW FLOODS

- The NSW Government appointed a Regional Recovery Coordinator to oversee the clean-up and recovery effort from the floods which have hit Western NSW.
- The Australian and New South Wales Government further announced disaster assistance for flood affected communities across NSW.
- Both Governments are committed to working together to ensure that those who have been impacted by these floods have the support they need to recover and rebuild.
- Assistance includes:
 - Help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged;
 - Support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets;
 - Concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations;
 - Freight subsidies for primary producers; and
 - Grants to not-for-profit organisations.

NEW CRUISE TERMINAL TO BOOST HUNTER TOURISM

- The NSW Government announced \$12.7 million to build a new multi-purpose cruise ship terminal in Newcastle Harbour.
- The facility will enable a significant expansion of the cruise industry in the Hunter which is a huge contributor to the regional economy.
- The new terminal will not only attract new cruise ships to the annual cruise season but could also be used as a home port for cruises.
- Construction of the building and associated flow-on economic activity in the regional economy is worth an estimated \$26.7 million.

BRIDGING THE CBD TO THE SOUTH EAST AS LIGHT RAIL CONSTRUCTION STORMS AHEAD

- Installation of a new light rail bridge over the Eastern Distributor connecting Surry Hills and Moore Park is forging ahead, with work due for completion by the end of the week.
- The NSW Government is getting on with building the light rail from the City to the South East with more than seven kilometres of the 12 kilometre route under construction, and Surry Hills and Moore Park now connected.
- Major construction of the CBD and South East Light Rail started in October 2015 with services to begin operating in 2019.
- Artist impressions, time-lapse video and a new animation are available here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1e7atljswee7p7j/AADY75uLb881hJ45DJ-Dd1mra?dl=0>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

- The NSW Government announced a new phone number which will give free, accurate and timely advice and referrals for victims of domestic violence across NSW.
- For the first time a single, easy to remember number will connect a victim directly with the local Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) when they enter a postcode.
- 1800 WDVCAS (1800 938 227) will link victims with a range of local support services including accommodation, counselling, financial support, court support, legal advice and referrals to government and non-government organisations.
- This is just one more way the NSW Government is making local, targeted support for domestic violence victims and their families fast and accessible.

TOWARDS ZERO: REVIVE WITH A CUPPA THIS LONG WEEKEND

- The NSW Government has announced Toll Group as a major road safety partner which will allow the Driver Reviver program to continue, helping drive down the state's road toll.
- The iconic road safety program will see almost 80 Driver Reviver rest stops offering motorists a place to stop, revive and survive during the school holidays and upcoming long weekend.
- The Toll partnership includes monetary support to help the Driver Reviver program continue across the state, and in-kind support for the management of volunteers, communications about how to manage and recognise fatigue and the very important delivery of biscuits, coffee and tea.
- So far this year, we have lost 291 lives on the road, which is 37 more than the same time last year, and 65 of those are because of fatigue crashes.

NEW PRISON TO BOOST WESTERN SYDNEY JOBS

- The NSW Government announced the latest 'rapid build' prison in Emu Plain which will stimulate the area's economy and provide local jobs in Western Sydney.
- This expansion is the third of four innovative dormitory-style facilities, part of the \$3.8 billion plan in response to the rising prison population.
- The new prison can hold 400 maximum security inmates and will create 220 jobs.
- The NSW Government, through 'rapid built' prisons are able to quickly respond to the rising prison population while being an investment in community safety.

SMALL BUSINESS PUT FINANCE ACCESS ON AGENDA

- As part of the NSW Government's \$8 million Business Connect Program advisors will now be trained to help small business open doors to access much-needed finance.
- From the 1st of January 2017, these advisors will join a new finance business advisory service to help small and medium business understand the best loans options for them.
- The NSW Government is determined to continue helping small to medium businesses to grow and employ more people.

NEC LAUNCHES NEW WOLLONGONG OFFICE: 130 NEW TECH JOBS FOR REGION

- The NSW Government has announced University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus is the new home of global giant NEC Corporation who will now bring 130 new tech jobs to the region.

- The new facility forms part of a \$25 million investment to drive employment and innovation in partnership with the University.
- UoW Innovation Campus is a 33-hectare beachside precinct offering the unique opportunity for commercial organisations to work alongside world-class research teams from the University in state-of-the-art facilities.