

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 4 NOVEMBER 2016

FOUNDATIONS POURED FOR NEW LIGHT RAIL TUNNEL

- The first base slab has been poured today into what will soon be the nine-metre deep CBD and South East Light Rail tunnel.
- The tunnel, which is expected to be complete late 2017, will be more than 500 metres long connecting to the recently installed Eastern Distributor Bridge and emerging at a new future stop close the Sydney Football Stadium and Sydney Cricket Ground. The fill excavated for the tunnel will be re-used across the project.
- The CBD and South East Light Rail will provide efficient, turn-up-and-go public transport with services every four minutes between CBD and Moore Park and every eight minutes to and from Randwick and Kingsford between 7am and 7pm.

BUILDING APPROVALS RECORD SMASHED

- In a further boost to housing supply, the number of new homes given the greenlight in NSW has reached a new record high of 75,500 over the last year according to the latest ABS data.
- Building approvals rose 26% over the last year in NSW with the next strongest state (South Australia) recording a fall of 4.9%.
- The NSW Government has been working hard to build a simpler, more efficient planning system to increase the state's housing supply.

BUSES AND TRAINS ON DEMAND: TURNING OFF TIMETABLES

- The NSW Government has announced a trial of public transport services that arrive when and where commuters need them, the first step towards binning the timetable.

- Data including how people travel, weather and special events will be used to create public transport planning changes in real time – a timetable that is flexible and responds to what customers need.
- Expressions of interest for the on demand transport trial will be released in December 2016 with responses from industry due by February 2017. Following an evaluation period, all pilot programs are expected to be operational by the end of 2017.

MORE JOBS FOR TRADIES WITH LISMORE HOSPITAL UPGRADES

- Up to 200 skilled workers, apprentices and trainees will have the opportunity to gain employment as part of a new upgrade to Lismore Hospital as the NSW Government continues to roll out the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Plan across the state.
- The Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program sets employment and training for women, young people and Indigenous Australians on NSW Government-funded projects to help fill skills shortages in the construction industry.
- The Lismore Base Hospital Stage 3B Redevelopment will employ an average of 70 tradespeople each year will up to 14 new apprenticeship opportunities for young people in the region.

\$500 MILLION FOR NSW'S ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE

- The NSW Government has announced a nation-leading \$500 million environmental funding package that will support a range of innovative environmental programs with a focus on job creation and consumer savings.
- Two draft plans have been released – the draft strategic plan for the \$500 million investment package and the draft plan to *Save NSW Energy and Money*.
- These plans will set out possible investment actions to stimulate investment in advanced energy in NSW and will detail a savings plan that proposes ambitious measures to help households save up to \$7.8 billion on their energy bills by 2050.
- Visit engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/Environmental-Future-Consultation to have your say and find out how to get involved in forthcoming briefings and public feedback meetings during November.

DISADVANTAGED APPRENTICES SHARE IN ALMOST \$1 MILLION IN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

- 66 of NSW's most deserving apprenticeships will see a boost in to their vocational education and training with a \$15,000 Bert Evans Scholarship.
- The Bert Evans Scholarships are part of a \$2.4 million NSW Government program to assist apprenticeships who experience significant personal challenges and have shown positive attitudes toward their training.
- The NSW Government is committed to providing support to students across the state from a range of different backgrounds and circumstances so that no one is left behind.
- For more information visit: www.training.nsw.gov.au.