

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 5 August 2016**

### **CRACKING ON WITH SYDNEY'S TUNNELLING BOOM**

- Two groups have been shortlisted to build the tunnels under Sydney Harbour and through the CBD for Sydney Metro – Australia's biggest public transport project.
- Following an assessment of the expressions of interest submissions, two strong joint venture parties have been shortlisted and will be invited to tender for the contract with the NSW Government expecting to award the contract to build the tunnels around half way through 2017.
- The new twin railway tunnels will stretch more than 15km from Chatswood to Sydenham and more than 40km below the surface of Sydney Harbour using a specialised machine to deal with the unique ground conditions under the Harbour.
- There will be seven major contracts for the Sydney Metro City & Southwest project with the tender process for the six remaining contracts expected to start towards the end of the year.

### **EDUCATION WEEK 2016: SHARED STORIES, BETTER LEARNING, STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

- Education Week 2016 has marked an important time for the community to recognise and celebrate the achievements of public schools, their students and staff.
- Launched by Premier Mike Baird, this year's Education Week involved more than 2,100 schools and had a theme of 'Shared stories, better learning, stronger communities'.
- The NSW Government is ensuring that our public school students are taught in world-class facilities by the best teachers – in the last NSW Budget \$3.7 billion was allocated for education, up by \$950 million from last year.

## **INCREASING ACCESS TO CANNABIS BASED MEDICINE**

- Doctors in NSW will now be able to apply to prescribe a broader range of cannabis-based medicines as a result of NSW Government regulatory changes.
- Cannabis-based medicines that were previously only able to be used in clinical trials in NSW can now be considered by doctors for patients who have exhausted standard treatment options.
- The NSW Government is investing \$21 million to further world leading evidence based research into the safe and effective use of cannabis-based medicines.
- For further information about the NSW Government's medical cannabis initiatives visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/cannabis](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/cannabis) or call 1800 217 257.

## **NEW IDEAS FOR A SAFE AND VIBRANT SYDNEY NIGHTLIFE**

- The NSW Government has released outcomes from the Sydney Night-Time Economy Roundtable in which representatives of industry, community and government discussed ways to boost Sydney's status as a global city with safe and dynamic nightlife.
- An app delivering real time updates on entertainment options, extending public transport operating hours, activating places with 'pop-up' food and later opening of shops and cultural venues are among new ideas for boosting Sydney's night-time economy.
- The three roundtable events, held between March and May, included representatives from hospitality, live music, the liquor industry, health, transport, police, local and state government, small business, planning and resident groups.
- The roundtable's report including its 25 proposed actions have been provided to the Callinan Review and are available at <https://www.liquorandgaming.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/about-us/roundtablemeetings.aspx>

## **\$1.78 MILLION BOOST FOR COMMUNITY TRAINING**

- The NSW Government is committing \$1.78 million to fund not-for-profit community education providers that help thousands of disadvantaged, regional and remote learners in NSW gain access to formal education and training.
- 35 providers through the Adult Community Education (ACE) program will assist those who need additional support including students with disabilities, the long term unemployed, Indigenous students or those receiving welfare and their dependants.
- Courses funded through NSW ACE provide an important pathway for foundation skills, pre-vocational or bridging programs to more formal education and work-related training.
- For more information visit <https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/>

## **NSW GOVERNMENT HELPING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A BETTER START TO LIFE**

- The NSW Government is expanding the Youth Private Rental Subsidy to Wagga Wagga and the Central Coast which will assist more vulnerable young people facing homelessness.
- Under the subsidy, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness will pay rent starting at 25% of their income with the NSW Government's subsidy tapering off over three years as young people move into paid employment.
- The subsidy will be rolled out to four other areas during 2016-17 and it is expected that at least 290 young people will receive the subsidy each year.
- For more information visit: [www.facs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au)

## **BACKUP FOR LIFE: SUPPORTING FORMER OFFICERS**

- The NSW Government has announced \$2 million in funding towards a joint initiative with NSW Police Legacy to support former police officers and their families.
- *BACKUP for Life* offers greater support to injured officers and their loved ones with coordinated programs and initiatives that recognise the contribution former officers have made while serving the community.

## **COMMENTS INVITED ON APPRENTICESHIP REFORM**

- The NSW Government is seeking comment from industry and other stakeholders as part of its latest review of apprenticeship and traineeship administration and regulations in NSW.
- The review will examine whether change is needed to improve the completion rates of apprenticeship and traineeship qualifications and will develop any necessary improvements through industry and community responses.
- Consultations will take place with Apprenticeship Compact signatories, ITABS, industry and employer associations, employee representatives, ACPET and TAFE NSW. Submissions are invited from stakeholders in industry and the VET sector, and focus groups will be held in Sydney and regional areas.
- Comments can be made at [vtu@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vtu@industry.nsw.gov.au) by COB on September 19, 2016