

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 7 OCTOBER 2016**

### **DEBT WIPED OUT, BUDGET FIRMLY IN THE BLACK**

- The NSW Government has wiped out the State's net debt and delivered a cash positive result in 2015-16.
- The Total State Sector Accounts (TSSA) shows a final surplus of \$4.7 billion in 2015-16 – an improvement of \$1.3 billion since the June 2016 Budget forecast.
- General government sector net debt fell from \$5.5 billion at 30 June 2015 to negative \$57 million at 30 June 2016 – meaning NSW was in a cash positive position for the first time on record.
- NSW's Budget is firmly in the black and we are leading the nation on economic and fiscal management

### **BETTER OUTCOMES FOR SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS**

- New social housing reforms will see social housing in four areas of NSW managed by Community Housing Providers (CHPs) to deliver better outcomes for tenants and the community.
- Family and Community Services (FACS) would transfer, on a long leasehold basis, management of approximately 18,000 properties to the community sector to ensure a better experience for tenants in social housing.
- The NSW Government is committed to increase community housing's management of social housing under its Future Directions reforms of social housing.

## **NEW HOUSING APPROVALS HIT ALL TIME HIGH**

- Latest ABS data shows that the number of new homes to be given the greenlight in NSW has reached a new record high with more than 73,000 residential building approvals over the past year.
- 73,606 new dwellings were approved in the 12 months to August, marking the fastest growth rate of any state.
- By delivering a simpler, more efficient planning system, the NSW Government is seeking to improve housing supply, housing choice and help people get into the property market.

## **HELPING PEOPLE LIVE LONGER AND BETTER LIVES**

- The NSW Government has launched the NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020 in response to the challenges and opportunities being created by an ageing population.
- First launched in 2012, the renewed NSW Ageing Strategy focuses on five key priority areas – health and wellbeing, working and retiring, housing choices, getting around, and inclusive communities.
- The 2016-17 NSW Budget provided \$6.5 million to deliver the renewed NSW Ageing Strategy, including \$1 million for the Liveable Communities Grants Program, \$600,000 for the Elder Abuse Helpline and over \$500,000 to expand the Tech Savvy Seniors Program.
- For more information about the renewed NSW Ageing Strategy go to [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/ageingstrategy](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/ageingstrategy).

## **MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- The NSW Government's Youth Opportunities Program will provide grant funding to organisations to deliver youth-led, youth-driven, community projects that will help young people realise their full potential.
- More than \$1.1 million in funding for 28 innovative projects will be delivered, projects that include:
  - Funding to help the Women in Prison Advocacy Network deliver the *My Way* mentoring project to help at-risk young women;
  - Funding the Auburn Small Community Organisation Network to deliver the *My First Job* project to help vulnerable youth apply for their first job; and

- Funding Marist Youth Care to deliver the *Young Entrepreneurs Project* to help young people establish micro-business.
- Since the Program was launched in 2012, more than \$7.9 million has been allocated to over 140 youth development projects.

## **ACTION ON WEEDS WELCOMED**

- The NSW Government announced nearly \$10 million to help manage the worst of our weeds, as part of the NSW Government's Weeds Action Program.
- More than \$8.5 million has been allocated to regional projects and an additional \$1.5 million will target state-wide problem weeds for example through coordinated planning, new incursion response and biological control.
- Noxious weeds cost farmers around \$1.8 billion a year in control measures and lost production.
- The NSW Government's Weeds Action Program is a key initiative under the NSW Invasive Species Plan and the NSW Biosecurity Strategy, which aim to reduce the devastating impacts of weeds on agricultural production and the environment.