

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 6 MAY 2016

KEEPING NSW SAFE FROM TERRORISM

- The NSW Government has introduced new laws to Parliament that will allow NSW Police to detain and question terrorism suspects for up to 14 days. The Terrorism (Police Powers)
- The new laws will:
 - Allow NSW Police to arrest and detain a person for up to four days, with a review by a senior police officer every 12 hours, if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the person has committed a terrorist act in the past 28 days or is involved in planning one that could occur in the next 14 days;
 - Enable questioning of a detained terrorism suspect about a terrorist act that occurred within the last 28 days or that could occur in the next 14 days;
 - Allow a Supreme Court Judge to extend the detention beyond the initial period in increments of seven days, up to a total 14 days;
 - Establish a mechanism to protect sensitive criminal intelligence relied upon by police to make detention applications; and
 - Prevent the arrest or detention under this scheme of anyone aged under 14 and ensure appropriate protections for detained individuals, in particular those under 18.
- The NSW Government will continue to do everything possible to protect the community from the threat of terrorism.

NSW ECONOMY STILL THE STRONGEST

- The recent CommSec State of the States report has confirmed NSW remains the best performing economy in the nation.

- The State of the State report assesses and compares the economic performance of the states and territories by looking at eight key indicators.
- NSW remains in first place for retail trade, housing starts and employment with CommSec noting that NSW will remain the number one economy for some time.
- The NSW Government is working hard to make sure everyone across the State benefits from our strong performing economy.

NEW ERA IN LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

- The NSW Government has introduced reforms to improve environmental outcomes and increase farmer's productivity by overhauling ineffective and complicated environmental laws.
- Under the new system, routine farm work would be exempt from regulation, farmers would be able to plan for the future to improve their productivity and the government would provide farmers with incentives to conserve native plants and trees on their land.
- The reforms will also protect and enhance the environment with \$240 million to be invested over five years in private land conservation, - with \$70 million every year following - and \$100 million dedicated over five years to the 'Saving Our Species Program'.
- The NSW Government is delivering on yet another election commitment by repealing the *Native Vegetation Act* and creating laws that both protect the environment and give farmers a fair go.

10-YEAR STRATEGY FOR eHEALTH IN NSW

- The NSW Government has launched a 10-year eHealth strategy to deliver smart, safe, sustainable and digitally-enabled care to patients.
- Over \$400 million has been allocated to support advances in technology in hospitals and health facilities and this strategy will continue to build on those improvements.
- eHealth initiatives include Electronic Medical Records, Electronic Medication Management System, HealtheNet, Telehealth and Clinical Analytics.

- The NSW government has made NSW Health the most advanced eHealth system in Australia and will continue to deliver safer, high quality, more efficient and better coordinated care.

NEW EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM TO RECOGNISE SKILLS AND SERVICE OF VETERANS

- The NSW Government has announced the Veterans Employment Program which will offer practical guidance to military personnel who want to change careers and to help identify government roles closely matched skills associated with military rank.
- Veterans will be skill-matched to fulfilling careers in the NSW public sector as a part of this specialist employment program with the program also including an education campaign to help employers better understand the experience and skills that veterans can contribute to an organisation.
- To find out more about the program visit vep.veterans.nsw.gov.au.

MORE PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

- The NSW Government has introduced new laws that will give domestic violence victims and their loved ones increased protection.
- Under changes to the Apprehended Domestic Violence Order (ADVO) Scheme, domestic violence offences will now include any and all NSW or Commonwealth criminal offence where the defendant intends to coerce, control or cause the victim to fear for their safety, such as using a mobile carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence.
- The reforms will also ensure ADVOs are written in plain English which spell out examples of the consequences of breaches to improve information for perpetrators and victims.
- The NSW Government's changes will implement all 17 recommendations of the statutory review of the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007*.

STRONG INTEREST IN \$1.1 BILLION SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOOST

- The NSW Government has announced that nine parties have been shortlisted to develop proposals to tap into the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF).
- Under the SAHF, 3,000 additional social and affordable homes will be delivered, which will reduce waiting lists.
- Over 24 expression of interest were received to tap into the SAHF, which will invest approximately \$1.1 billion in capital.
- The NSW Government continues to work to improve the lives of the most vulnerable by rolling out the biggest social housing reforms in 40 years.

NEW PROJECTS TO PROTECT HARBOUR HERITAGE

- The NSW Government will invest \$73 million over the next four years in projects to protect and enhance heritage assets along the Sydney Harbour foreshore.
- The projects will include a \$23 million renewal of the Pyrmont Bridge, \$15 million to replace ageing ferry wharves in Cockle Bay and \$20 million for the refurbishment of public spaces in Darling Harbour.
- The NSW Government will continue to safeguard, preserve and maintain our heritage buildings and places for future generations.

PLANNING APPROVAL FOR PENRITH'S NEW AMBULANCE SUPERSTATION

- Major works will soon begin on Penrith's new NSW Ambulance superstation – a multi-million dollar facility that will ensure paramedics are better equipped to meet the demands of Western Sydney's paramedic resources.
- The Penrith superstation is part of the NSW Government's \$150 million investment into the Sydney Ambulance Metropolitan Infrastructure Strategy (SAMIS), which currently encompasses five sites across Sydney.
- Construction works have now begun on four other superstations at Blacktown, Bankstown, Kogarah and Liverpool with further locations to be announced as the five year SAMIS program is rolled out.

- For more information and to view artist's impressions of the superstations visit: <http://www.ambulancesuperstations.health.nsw.gov.au/>