

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 13 December 2013

NSW HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVING

- Patients across NSW are receiving quality care quicker than ever, with the results contained in the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) quarterly report (July-September 2013) into hospital performance.
- The figures show patients attending hospitals including Armidale, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Nepean, Orange, Prince of Wales and Tweed are being treated more swiftly in the emergency department.
- Hospitals including Bankstown, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Coffs Harbour, Gosford, Liverpool, Nepean, Orange, Prince of Wales, Tamworth and Westmead are performing more of their elective surgeries on time and, as a result, are working through their wait lists at an improved pace.
- The results were achieved despite the fact there were more than 18,000 additional emergency department presentations than in the comparative quarter last year, in a clear sign the NSW health system is improving after 16 years of Labor neglect.

RECORD POLICE NUMBERS: 157 NEW POLICE GRADUATES

- The NSW Government has welcomed 157 new officers who have graduated from the Goulburn Police Academy.
- The recruits will now be allocated to Local Area Commands across NSW, with more than half going to commands across the State's North and South West.
- The NSW Government has already added an additional 420 officers to the NSW Police Force, with police numbers now at a record high.
- We are committed to boosting the authorised strength of the NSW Police Force by 859 police officers, to reach 16,665 by August 2015 – the strength now stands at 16,226 so we are well on track to meeting our target.

SYDNEY'S BUS FUTURE: SIMPLER, FASTER, BETTER BUS SERVICES

- The NSW Government's long term plan to redesign our city's bus network to meet customer needs now and into the future has been released.
- *Sydney's Bus Future* will ensure more than 1.5 million Sydneysiders will live within a 10 minute walk to new 'turn up and go' services. It is the first time the NSW Government has taken a fresh look at the bus network to see where short, medium and long term changes are needed to improve customer journeys on our buses.

- The plan will streamline more than 600 bus routes and follow the lead of other global cities by introducing a new tiered network of Rapid, Suburban and Local bus services.
- Since March 2011 we have introduced more than 4,700 new weekly bus services, invested more than \$90 million for 200 new buses this financial year, introduced double decker buses, and started rolling out Opal electronic ticketing.

WET'N'WILD SYDNEY: JOBS INVESTMENT AND FUN FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

- Western Sydney is now home to the world's biggest water theme park Wet'n'Wild Sydney which opened its doors this week.
- The \$120 million high tech water park is set to become a major tourism drawcard for Western Sydney with about one million visitors expected in its first 12 months.
- The park's operator says Wet'n'Wild is delivering 300 new full time jobs for Western Sydney, on top of the 300 jobs created during construction.
- Wet'n'Wild Sydney is expected to contribute more than \$500 million to the NSW economy during the first 10 years of operation.

CAR HOON CRACKDOWN

- Laws introduced by the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government to crack down on car hooners have been enormously successful, with 123 cars impounded and 513 sets of number plates seized.
- Under the laws a driver loses their car or number plates for three months if they are caught exceeding the speed limit by more than 45 km/h, are involved in a police pursuit, or commit hoon type offences like burn-outs and street racing.
- If a person drives their car after their number plates have been seized their vehicle can be permanently confiscated.
- The message to lunatics who treat our streets like racetracks is simple – if you want to keep your car, slow down and obey the law.

NEW AND IMPROVED BOATING FACILITIES ACROSS NSW

- The NSW Government has announced more than \$5.4 million in grants to councils and community groups across NSW for new and improved boating facilities.
- The funding allocated under the Better Boating Program will support 66 projects in regional NSW, as well as five boat ramps and other boating facility upgrade projects on Sydney Harbour.
- The Better Boating Program grants are about planning for the future and making sure the community has safe access to facilities that help residents get out and about on our waterways.
- For more information visit: http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/mpd/infra_grants.html

IMPROVEMENTS TO SPRINGWOOD AND BUNDEENA FIRE STATIONS

- The \$1.5 million upgrade of Springwood Fire Station in the Blue Mountains has been completed with the original 1987 structure brought up to modern standards.
- The upgrade includes an expanded engine bay, more equipment storage and extended staff areas to accommodate the 21 permanent firefighters who have joined the station.
- Meanwhile, the \$2.2 million Bundeena Ambulance and Fire Station has been officially opened and is the State's first purpose-built, co-located ambulance and fire station.
- The state-of-the-art station will allow paramedics and fire and rescue workers to work together to provide emergency services to the unique communities of Bundeena, Maianbar and the Royal National Park.

NEW FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

- The NSW Government will work with the agriculture and education sectors to ensure agricultural education and training is able to better respond to industry needs.
- A report authored by Professor of Agriculture at Charles Sturt University, Professor Jim Pratley, and was commissioned to ensure agricultural education remained relevant to the industry.
- It assessed current and projected industry and workforce needs, and how effectively school, Vocational Education and Training and higher education programs currently respond to those needs.
- The NSW Government will work with education, training and research institutions to more readily respond to industry developments and ensure the industry has a workforce with the right skills.

CAMPAIGN TARGETS ONE OF THE ROAD'S BIGGEST KILLERS - FATIGUE

- A new road safety campaign *Don't Trust Your Tired Self* has been launched highlighting the serious risks of driving tired.
- Fatigue is one of the top three killers on NSW roads, along with speeding and drink driving.
- Figures show that last year 62 people died and almost 2,000 people were injured on our roads in fatigue-related crashes.
- Unfortunately, tiredness is not something police can detect like alcohol, highlighting the importance of the *Don't Trust Your Tired Self* education campaign.

**

**Follow the NSW Government on Twitter @BarryOFarrell and
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/barryofarrellmp>**