

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 2 May 2014

PORT LEASE SECURES FUNDS FOR NEWCASTLE REVITALISATION

- NSW Premier Mike Baird and Treasurer Andrew Constance have announced the successful lease of the Port of Newcastle, delivering a great result for the people of NSW and securing the funds needed for the revitalisation of Newcastle.
- The NSW Government has agreed to lease the Port for 98 years to Port of Newcastle Investments, a consortium which comprises Hastings Funds Management and China Merchants.
- The lease will deliver gross proceeds of \$1.75 billion. This outstanding result means an extra \$1.5 billion will be invested in much-needed NSW infrastructure, with 30 per cent to be directed toward projects in rural and regional NSW.
- \$340 million from the proceeds will be used for the revitalisation of the Newcastle CBD, in addition to the \$120 million the Government has already allocated to the project, which includes a new light rail service. The remainder – more than \$1.2 billion – will be invested in the NSW Government's dedicated infrastructure fund, Restart NSW.

TRANSFORMING REGIONAL AND RURAL HEALTH

- NSW Premier Mike Baird made his first visit to regional NSW since becoming Premier, inspecting progress on the \$282 million redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital - the largest rural hospital upgrade in the state.
- Our commitment to regional and rural health cannot be clearer – the NSW Government is redeveloping hospitals across the state to ensure patients receive first-class care in first-class facilities.
- Hospital upgrades are pushing ahead in regional NSW at Tamworth (\$220 million redevelopment), Port Macquarie (\$110 million redevelopment), Dubbo (\$91 million redevelopment), Lismore (\$80 million redevelopment), Kempsey (\$80 million redevelopment), Parkes (\$72 million development), Forbes (\$40.9 million redevelopment) and Bega (\$171 million development).
- While in Wagga Wagga Mr Baird, Health Minister Jillian Skinner, Mental Health Minister Jai Rowell and Wagga Wagga MP Daryl Maguire visited the hospital's new mental health unit.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION: SOUTH WEST RAIL LINK AIRPORT EXTENSION

- Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian has announced the NSW Government has started work to set aside a future corridor for a South West Rail Link extension to Sydney's second airport, with community consultation set to begin this week.

- This corridor planning means when the time comes to extend the South West Rail Link we will be ready to go, and costs will be lower.
- One of the reasons the North West Rail Link costs what it does is that the corridor wasn't preserved – we can't allow that mistake to happen again for future transport projects.
- The South West Rail Link is due to open in 2015 – one year ahead of schedule and \$100 million below the \$2.1 billion budget.

NSW LEADING THE WAY IN HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE

- Hospitals in NSW are leading other states and territories on national performance benchmarks according to the latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released the *Australian Hospital Statistics 2012-2013*.
- The results show that in 2012-13, NSW public hospitals treated the largest number of patients of any state or territory, with 2.6 million emergency department presentations and 1.7 million hospital admissions.
- More than 70 per cent of NSW patients completed their emergency department treatment within the four hour National Emergency Access Target - up 9.7 per cent from the previous year, the greatest rise in the nation.
- Of all elective surgery patients, almost 97 per cent received their treatment within clinically recommended time frames - the best result in Australia.
- The NSW Government has congratulated the dedicated doctors, nurses and other clinical staff who are driving continuing improvement in NSW hospitals.

STRONG INVESTMENT RETURNS DELIVER A BOOST TO WORKERS COMP SCHEME

- NSW Treasurer Andrew Constance and Minister for Finance and Services Dominic Perrottet have today announced a \$1 billion improvement to the bottom line of the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme – a result driven by excellent investment returns of \$690 million.
- The scheme's updated surplus of \$1.36 billion gives the NSW Government flexibility around premium rate reductions for businesses and benefits for injured workers, subject to the findings of a statutory review and a Law and Justice Committee inquiry.
- We inherited an unsustainable Workers Compensation Scheme, with a rising \$4 billion deficit. Businesses were facing a 28 per cent increase to their premiums and more than 12,000 jobs were at risk.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's reforms were about putting the scheme back on a sustainable footing and better supporting the state's most seriously injured workers.

NSW ON THE MOVE THROUGH NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

- NSW moved up two places in the latest CommSec State of the States report to be third among the states and territories overall.
- The report highlights more positive news for the NSW economy and is a strong endorsement of the actions taken by the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government.

- According to CommSec, NSW ranked first in dwelling starts and improved its position on economic growth, equipment investment and construction work.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has a clear focus on stimulating growth through housing and jobs and this report shows it's paying dividends.

SCHOOL STUDENTS TO NAME NWRL TUNNEL BORING MACHINE

- School students from Sydney's North West will have the chance to name the first of the four tunnel boring machines on the \$8.3 billion North West Rail Link.
- With the first tunnel boring machine due in the ground at Bella Vista in October this year, the competition to name it has the theme: "Women who have made a positive contribution to life in Sydney."
- The winners will attend and will be involved in the official launch of the machine as it starts digging the first of the twin 15km tunnels.
- Competition entries close on May 25. For details visit www.northwestrail.com.au

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