

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 4 October 2013

WEEKEND OF MAJOR EVENTS A \$50M BOOST TO ECONOMY

- Sydney is set for one of its busiest weekends since the Olympics with an estimated 1.4 million people to attend a bumper long weekend of major events.
- The centrepiece is the International Fleet Review on Sydney Harbour, attended by Prince Harry and featuring a fireworks and lightshow spectacular to rival New Year's Eve. Other major events include the NRL Grand Final and Parramasala Festival in Western Sydney, Spring Carnival Racing at Royal Randwick and the Manly Jazz Festival.
- The NSW Government has been targeting major events and tourism as a way to rebuild the State's economy and weekends like this show we're getting results.
- So far, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has secured almost 200 events, delivering \$1.2 billion in visitor spending and reclaiming our status as the major events capital of Australia.

NSW GOVERNMENT PROTECTS KEY FARMLAND AND HOMES

- The NSW Government has implemented new rules as part of its commitment to protect prime agricultural land and water resources, while providing greater certainty for landholders and the resources industry.
- We have further strengthened the regulation of the CSG industry in NSW, including the introduction of a two kilometre buffer for new CSG activities across existing residential zones, as well as lands identified for future residential growth.
- NSW has the toughest CSG controls in Australia - this is the first time in the State's history there's been such extensive mapping and protection of our homes and farms.
- More information is available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/srlup

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD

- Residents in bush fire prone areas across NSW are urged to prepare now, with 1 October marking the formal start of the bush fire danger period in NSW.
- Emergency Services Minister Michael Gallacher says with warm and dry conditions forecast to continue, it's important everyone understands and prepares for the increased risk this season.

- Those who don't live close to the bush are being reminded embers from fires are able to travel great distances, putting them at risk.
- Hazard reduction is also a vital tool in helping protect lives and homes, and this year alone over 140,000 properties across the State have been provided with protection from bush fires by hazard reduction work.

HOUSING APPROVALS ON THE INCREASE

- The number of new houses approved in NSW continues to track at the highest levels in nine years, with approval rates rising in NSW despite falling nationally.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows a total of 41,309 houses have been approved in the 12 months to August 2013 - the highest level since 2003/04.
- In NSW, approvals have increased by 8 per cent against the five year average in the period from April 2011 to August 2013, despite a 2 per cent drop in approvals nationally in the same period.
- Our average; monthly approvals are 17 per cent higher than in the previous five years under Labor, showing business and consumer confidence is returning to NSW.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM TICKET SCALPING

- The NSW Government is cracking down on ticket scalpers, who've been exploiting fans by offering tickets to events that are either fakes or being sold at sky high prices.
- New laws will protect fans by setting clear ground rules for tickets being offered for resale, including requiring a clear and legible image of the ticket to show the ticket number, row, and seat number and details of the terms and conditions of sale.
- The NSW Government understands the need for a secondary ticket marketplace for people who can no longer attend an event and need to sell their ticket - these measures will give greater protection and transparency for consumers with minimal cost and disruption for event organisers.
- The reforms have the backing of the nation's major sporting codes.

WORLD HERITAGE PUSH FOR ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

- The NSW Government is spearheading a push to nominate Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and the Garawarra State Conservation Area for World Heritage listing.
- The Royal National Park was the first national park to be declared in Australia in 1879 - only the second in the world - and is the most visited national park in NSW.
- The park was added to Australia's National Heritage list in 2006 and the NSW Government is excited to start the process of nominating it for World Heritage listing.
- The NSW Government will approach the Commonwealth for assistance in preparing a nomination, which would help promote the park and drive tourism to this special place containing many Aboriginal artefacts.

NEW FLOOD-RESCUE BOATS

- A new fleet of flood-rescue boats is being deployed as NSW prepares for weather emergencies this summer season, boosting the State's ability to respond in a flood emergency.
- In accordance with the NSW State Flood Plan, the NSW Police Force will help the State Emergency Service carry out evacuations, flood rescues and property protection.
- Six new vessels, worth a total of \$200,000, will be based at Marine Area Command in Sydney and can be deployed to any flood-affected area in NSW.
- The boats will assist with accessing outlying communities during weather emergencies, and will be used in searches for missing people in flood-affected areas.

REGIONAL LEADERS OF LOCAL LAND SERVICES APPOINTED

- The final make-up of the leadership team that will drive the inaugural Local Land Services (LLS) has been announced.
- Eleven regional Chairs who will make up the LLS Board of Chairs have been appointed to their respective LLS regions, and will need to be accountable and set priorities that are in line with issues being raised by local farmers and managers.
- Each of the regional Chairs will work closely with the Chair of the LLS Board of Chairs, John Macarthur-Stenham, to ensure the organisation doesn't lose sight of state-wide priorities.
- The LLS is on track for an implementation date of January 2014.

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

- The draft *Centennial Park Master Plan 2040* is now on public display – providing the community with an opportunity to help shape the future of Australia's most historic public park.
- Centennial Park holds a special place in Australian history, which is why it's essential we plan to ensure it has a sustainable future.
- Anyone with an interest in the future of Centennial Park is encouraged to review the plan and have their say.
- The plan is on display until 29 October. For more information visit www.centennialparklands.com.au/cmp

STANDARD RETIREMENT VILLAGE CONTRACTS NOW A REALITY

- New streamlined standard contract and disclosure documents for retirement villages have come into effect, and must be used when selling property or occupation rights to potential residents.

- The new documents make the move into a village easier and less stressful for retirees and their families, and make it easier to compare villages to make a choice on which best suits a person's lifestyle and needs.
- The standard contract covers areas such as what kind of residence right the resident is buying, and all costs the resident must pay to enter, live in and leave the village.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals made an election commitment to develop a standard contract for retirement villages and we have delivered.

FUNDING INJECTION TO PROMOTE BLUE MOUNTAINS TOURISM

- The NSW Government has granted Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism \$150,000 to promote tourism in the region.
- The funding will be used to conduct a festival, events and a short breaks campaign for the Blue Mountains and surrounding areas, using electronic and online marketing tools to entice visitors to the region.
- The Blue Mountains area is one of the most popular for visitors to NSW, and it is critical we continue to support the local industry because of the local jobs it supports.
- Tourism to regional NSW saw \$12.8 billion in visitor expenditure in 2012, an increase of more than three per cent compared with the previous year.

FILM COUP FOR NSW: JOLIE HEADED DOWN UNDER

- In a major coup for the State's film industry, Angelina Jolie is to direct her film *Unbroken* in NSW.
- Securing production of *Unbroken* in NSW will inject millions of dollars into the State's economy and is expected to create more than 300 jobs for NSW-based crew alone, and more for cast and film extras.
- Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner said the production will film in NSW, with scenes to be shot in both Sydney and regional NSW.
- More than half (55 per cent) of all Australian production and post-production businesses are located in NSW, with a total income of more than \$1.58 billion in 2011-12.

WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS RACE BACK TO THE COFFS COAST

- The Coffs Coast has again been selected to host a round of the FIA World Rally Championship in 2014 following its successful staging of the event there last month.
- This year's event was estimated to attract more than 13,000 visitors to the Coffs Coast, and was estimated to have generated more than 64,000 visitor nights, injecting around \$9 million in visitor expenditure into the local economy.
- Adding the World Rally Championship to recently secured events such as the Sydney 500 Grand Finale at Sydney Olympic Park and the V8 Supercar Championship Series at Sydney Motorsport Park, together with the Bathurst 1000, confirms NSW as the headquarters of motorsports in Australia.