

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 6 JUNE 2014

GO AHEAD FOR MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT OF ST GEORGE AND SUTHERLAND HOSPITALS

- The NSW Government has announced the major redevelopments of St George Hospital and Sutherland Hospital - two projects totalling in excess of \$300 million.
- This year's Budget will include funding to commence the redevelopments with the final scope and cost to be determined once planning is completed later this year.
- Treasurer Andrew Constance said the redevelopment of St George Hospital and Sutherland Hospital will be two of the largest infrastructure projects undertaken in southern Sydney in decades.
- Health Minister Jillian Skinner said the two redevelopment projects would ensure frontline health care could be delivered in state-of-the art facilities for decades to come.

GREEN LIGHT FOR \$1.6bn CBD AND SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL

- The green light has been given for the \$1.6 billion new CBD and South East Light Rail project, having received formal planning approval.
- The CBD and South East Light Rail will link Circular Quay and Central, the Moore Park sporting and entertainment precinct including the Sydney Cricket Ground and Sydney Football Stadium, Randwick Racecourse, the University of NSW and Prince of Wales Hospital at Randwick.
- This is a priority project for the NSW Government that will transform Sydney, delivering over \$4 billion worth of economic benefits and create 10,000 jobs for NSW.
- Hundreds of community members and stakeholders attended information sessions in recent months and over 480 submissions were made to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
- The main contract to design, build, operate and maintain the new system is expected to be awarded as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) by early 2015 with major construction commencing soon after. The service is expected to be open and operational by 2020.

WESTERN SYDNEY LIGHT RAIL STUDY BEGINS

- The NSW Government will begin a study into the feasibility of light rail in the Parramatta region, in what is potentially another great project for Sydney's West.

- Work will begin immediately to identify the highest priority corridors for the introduction of light rail. This will be followed by a detailed feasibility study and high-level business case for those corridors.
- Once this first stage of work is completed, a number of viable options will be taken forward for detailed design and feasibility. This is the same process undertaken for the CBD and South East Light Rail project which will see major construction start next year.
- The NSW Government will work to ensure this Western Sydney light rail project fits into its urban renewal strategy in the region, including how it will integrate with major projects like WestConnex. Of course, like with any major project, the community will have its say along the way.

FINAL WARATAH TRAIN DELIVERED

- The final Waratah train has now been delivered, meaning almost 100 per cent of all timetabled Sydney Trains services are now air-conditioned.
- NSW Labor spent more than six years talking about the project but not one new Waratah train had been delivered. The NSW Liberal & Nationals Government restructured the Waratah project from its foundations, rescued it from financial disaster and we have delivered all 78 trains.
- The Waratahs now represent around half of Sydney's suburban fleet, which means that more and more customers will be able to experience the fleet's unique safety, accessibility and comfort features.
- The completion of the rollout means that 100 per cent of timetabled Sydney Trains services are air-conditioned. This does not include the limited Olympic Park Line that only has one stop. However, during special events air-conditioned trains are provided for customers on the Olympic Park Line.

1,000 NEW APPRENTICES TO HELP DELIVER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

- NSW Premier Mike Baird has announced that at least 1,000 apprentices will be employed to help the NSW Government deliver its massive infrastructure program right across the state.
- Under the NSW Government's procurement process for major infrastructure projects, we will set minimum requirements for apprenticeships on a project-by-project basis and ensure bidders spell out how they will leave a lasting skills dividend for local communities.
- Bidders will be assessed on a range of criteria, including the number of apprenticeships they are prepared to create during construction and through the partnerships they forge with local TAFE and other tertiary institutions.
- These actions will create at least 1,000 new apprenticeship positions during the delivery of our infrastructure program.

NSW LEADS THE WAY WITH STRONGEST ANNUAL GROWTH

- The NSW economy has outperformed the other states recording the strongest annual growth in final demand for the third consecutive quarter.

- The ABS National Accounts released this week show NSW State Final Demand grew 2.4 per cent in the March quarter to be 4.7 per cent higher through the year – the highest result since September 2010.
- These figures cement NSW as the engine room of the national economy. While states like Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia went backwards – NSW is charging ahead.
- Private investment in NSW grew 9.3 per cent in the March quarter in a clear sign businesses have the confidence to build and expand in NSW.

PUBLIC HOUSING AMNESTY DISCOVERS \$48M IN UNDECLARED ASSETS

- A two month rental amnesty for NSW public housing tenants has discovered some \$48 million in undeclared assets and generated more than \$2.5 million dollars in extra rental income.
- 2,300 people took advantage of the amnesty to declare extra income and assets, with more than a thousand tenants declaring an average of \$26,000 in undeclared income, and nearly 700 declaring an average of \$60,000 each in assets.
- As a result, their rents have been increased, leading to additional revenue which can be allocated to funding vitally needed public housing. In addition, public housing properties are being freed up because people have declared that they own other properties and they will now be expected to give up their public housing home to move into that property.
- Housing NSW has clear rules as to how much income, financial assets or property ownership public housing tenants can have, to ensure housing is granted to those in the community most in need.

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL DAVID HURLEY AS GOVERNOR

- NSW Premier Mike Baird has announced the appointment of General David Hurley, AC, DSC to be the Governor of NSW from 2 October 2014.
- General Hurley has had a long and distinguished career in command in the Australian Defence Force which culminated in his appointment as Chief of the Defence on 4 July 2011.
- General Hurley is an outstanding Australian who has dedicated his entire adult life to the service of his country. The people of NSW are extremely fortunate General Hurley has accepted the position of Governor.
- Mr Baird also paid tribute to Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO and Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE for their dedication to duty and service to the people of NSW over the past 13 years.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S TEACHERS

- Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli has announced the trial of a literacy and numeracy test for teacher education students as part of the NSW Government's commitment to *Great Teaching, Inspired Learning*.
- We have great teachers in NSW and now we are taking further steps to improve the quality of teaching for the next generation of teachers.

- A new online literacy and numeracy trial test for teacher education students at NSW universities is expected to be fully available next year and from 2016 all teacher education students will need to have passed it before undertaking their final practicum.
- This measure will help ensure that we can have confidence that every student graduating from a teaching course has the necessary literacy and numeracy skills for their chosen career.

OPAL ROLLED OUT TO 100 MORE BUSES

- Opal will be rolled out to almost 100 more buses next week, including the first double decker buses to be activated for electronic ticketing.
- The rollout of Opal on 96 buses on the Forest Coach Lines routes in Sydney's north from June 10 comes as 280,000 Opal cards have now been issued, and more than 2.5 million free trips have been taken with Opal on trains, buses and ferries.
- The Forest Coach Lines buses to have Opal from next week operate across approximately 30 suburbs in the northern Sydney and city regions, including Terrey Hills, Frenchs Forest, Davidson, Warringah, Pittwater, Chatswood and the CBD.
- The NSW Government also announced the retirement of 14 paper ticket types from September 1, 2014 to allow the NSW Government to continue to modernise the transport network.
- To order an Adult or Child/Youth Opal card go to opal.com.au or call 13 67 25.

FUNDING BOOST FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED FARMERS

- Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson have announced an additional \$15.6 million in support for drought-affected areas and extended the support package to three new local government areas (LGAs) in the Central West and North Coast.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has now allocated more than \$30 million to its temporary emergency support package since November 2013.
- The emergency drought support package has now been extended to Lithgow, Kyogle and Kempsey LGAs, taking the total number of eligible regions to 30.
- The inclusion of these additional LGAs is based upon the expert advice of the independent Regional Assistance Advisory Committee.

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