

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 4 April 2014**

### **DELIVERING INFRASTRUCTURE: PRINCES HIGHWAY UPGRADE NOW OPEN**

- Minister for Roads Duncan Gay joined Minister for Illawarra John Ajaka and local MPs Shelley Hancock and Gareth Ward to officially open the \$62 million upgrade of the Princes Highway at South Nowra.
- The 6.3 kilometre upgrade of the Princes Highway to four lanes between Kinghorne Street and Forest Road will improve road safety and traffic flow and meet the needs of the community and businesses into the future.
- The upgrade is part of the NSW Government's allocation of \$202 million for investment to improve the Princes Highway this financial year.
- The NSW Government is delivering on a commitment to provide the Illawarra and South Coast communities the high quality roads.

### **INCREASED ON-THE-SPOT FINES FOR DRUNKEN AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

- Anyone engaging in drunken or anti-social behaviour faces increased on-the-spot fines as part of the NSW Government's crackdown on drug and alcohol-fuelled violence.
- Criminal Infringement Notices for offensive language and offensive behaviour will rise to \$500, while continued intoxicated and disorderly behaviour after a move on direction will attract a fine of \$1,100.
- The message to drunken thugs is clear: violent, offensive and anti-social behaviour simply won't be tolerated.
- This is the latest step in measures targeting intoxicated street behaviour. Lockouts have started, the mandatory minimum sentences for fatal one punch attacks have come into effect, and now unacceptable behaviour will face much higher fines.

### **MORE SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED FARMERS**

- Farmers battling drought in NSW can now apply for an increased rebate for installing water infrastructure to supply emergency water to their animals.
- An agreement has been signed between the Australian and NSW Governments to increase funding for the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate.
- The agreement means the maximum that farmers doing it tough in NSW can claim under this scheme has risen from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

- Farmers who have already received the rebate are eligible for an additional rebate, which can be used for the purchase and installation of water infrastructure including pipes, tanks, bores, troughs, pumps and delivery and installation costs.
- More information can be found by contacting the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 02 6391 3000.

### **WEEKEND CLEARWAYS START ON VICTORIA ROAD**

- New weekend clearways are now in operation on Victoria Road at Rozelle, between The Crescent and Iron Cove Bridge, as part of the NSW Government's congestion busting strategy.
- Roads and Maritime Services has carried out extensive community consultation for the introduction of the weekend clearway, which operate from 8am to 8pm.
- The NSW Government has also proposed implementing weekend clearways for King Georges Road, Lane Cove Road, Mona Vale Road and the Princes Highway.
- Alternative parking across all proposed clearways will be identified.

### **MOBILE PHONE RECEPTION SWITCHED ON FOR MORE TRAIN CUSTOMERS**

- Sydney Trains customers can now enjoy uninterrupted mobile phone coverage in the CBD and surrounding areas, with reception now live through the city's tunnels.
- Mobile coverage for the T4 Eastern Suburbs Line has been switched on this week, completing the roll out of 18,000 metres of cabling through Sydney's underground.
- Last year, coverage went live in the City Circle and tunnels north to Chatswood, and that's now been expanded for customers travelling south to Erskineville and east to Bondi Junction.
- The rollout of mobile coverage is another example of how we are listening to customers and making a difference to their journey, with real-time apps, new Twitter handles and the completion of Opal on the Sydney Trains network.

### **BLACKTOWN HOSPITAL CAR PARK NOW OPEN**

- The first stage of the redevelopment of Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital is complete following the opening of a new multi-storey car park at the Blacktown campus.
- The 622-space car park is a key component of the \$324 million expansion of the Hospital, which is the state's largest hospital construction project.
- Labor neglected the need for car parks at hospitals for 16 years and in contrast the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government is listening to the community, and delivering.
- More than \$115 million will be spent in our first four-year term on major car park projects across NSW – adding more than 3,000 car spaces for staff, patients and their families.

### **NEW MENTAL HEALTH UNIT OPEN AT NEPEAN HOSPITAL**

- Mental health services in Greater Western Sydney have entered a new era with the opening of the \$44 million Nepean Mental Health Centre.

- The state of the art facility is part of the part of the \$139 million redevelopment of Nepean Hospital and will significantly increase the range and availability of mental health services for residents.
- The Nepean Mental Health Centre has capacity for 64 beds, including 44 beds in the acute and high dependency units, which is double the number of inpatient mental health beds at Nepean Hospital.
- The new unit also provides vital assistance and support to their families and carers.

## **DESIGNERS SOUGHT FOR NEXT STAGE OF BARANGAROO**

- An international search has been launched for world leading proposals to deliver Central Barangaroo - the final piece of the \$6 billion Barangaroo precinct.
- Strong local and international interest is expected, as investment partners and designers look to be part of one of the most significant waterfront renewal projects underway anywhere in the world.
- Central Barangaroo will be the heart of Barangaroo, combining cultural and creative attractions with open and active spaces on the edge of Sydney Harbour, apartments, shops, restaurants and offices.
- This competitive process will bring forward the best and most innovative ideas from around the world – details of the EOI process are available at [www.barangaroo.com](http://www.barangaroo.com).

## **TAMWORTH HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE**

- Construction for Tamworth Hospital's \$220 million redevelopment has reached its highest point of five stories –just nine months after the first sod was turned.
- The redevelopment of Tamworth Hospital has resulted in the creation of 2,200 direct and indirect construction jobs locally.
- Once complete, the new acute services building will house inpatient and diagnostic services including an emergency department, intensive care and operating theatres.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is delivering on a \$5 billion commitment to upgrade hospital infrastructure across NSW to improve the quality of patient care.

## **ADAM GOODES GETS BEHIND NEW CHILD ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM**

- Sydney Swans legend and Australian of the Year Adam Goodes is the face of a new road safety program for children addressing pedestrian distraction.
- The online and schools program is the only one of its kind in the country and includes a video featuring Adam Goodes to explain how young people can identify risks.
- Distraction is a number one issue for pedestrians in NSW and this road safety education campaign is aimed at helping young pedestrians avoid the risks.
- Funded by the NSW Government, Safety Town will be rolled out in schools from next term and is the first online road safety resource for schools. Full details can be found at [www.safetytown.com.au](http://www.safetytown.com.au).

## **MATCHING UPPER HUNTER ABORIGINAL STUDENTS WITH JOBS**

- One of the state's first Opportunity Hubs, a key initiative of *OCHRE* — the NSW Government's Plan for Aboriginal affairs, will be based in Singleton.
- Opportunity Hubs coordinate and match training opportunities for Aboriginal students, providing incentives to finish school and transition into sustainable jobs.
- The Hub will match education, training and employment opportunities for young Aboriginal people in the Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter local government areas.
- It will act as a bank for local employers, universities and TAFEs to deposit opportunities including employment, training, mentoring, scholarships or volunteer work.

## **MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITE LAUNCHED DURING NSW YOUTH WEEK**

- Young people across NSW now have access to online tools to support the mental health of their friends and family after a new website was launched during Youth Week.
- *Makeamatesday.com.au* has been developed in response to research that shows more young people are seeking online and peer-based services to support their mental health.
- The simple and engaging website will help young people identify ways to connect with their friends who may be struggling with mental health issues, and give them the tools to start difficult conversations.
- The website was launched during 2014 NSW Youth Week, *Minding Our Mental Health Forum*, which was hosted by the NSW Youth Advisory Council and the NSW Mental Health Commission.

## **GREAT WALKS: PUTTING NSW'S WALKING EXPERIENCES ON THE MAP**

- We are working to make NSW one of the world's great walking destinations, with the Great Walks program showcasing the state's spectacular landscapes and an expansive walking track network to domestic and international visitors.
- As part of the program \$2.4 million will be invested into revitalising two of Australia's most loved walking tracks – the Royal Coast Track in Royal National Park and the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk, passing through Sydney Harbour National Park.
- These two walks perfectly capture the beauty and pleasure of bushwalking in NSW, offering spectacular scenery, wildlife encounters and an outdoor experience right on Sydney's doorstep.
- For more information visit: [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/greatwalks](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/greatwalks).

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