

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 10 October 2014

WESTMEAD MILLENNIUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE OPENS

- A \$110 million medical research facility in Western Sydney opened this week, with a \$38 million contribution from the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government.
- The new Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research building will be home to 400 scientists and clinicians and will - for the first time – bring all Westmead Millennium Institute centres of research under one roof.
- The state-of-the-art building will also allow the Institute to expand research in its core areas: infectious and immune diseases, cancer and leukaemia, liver and metabolic diseases, eye and brain-related disorders and heart and respiratory diseases.
- The new headquarters will enhance the scope of ground-breaking research undertaken in fields such as disease gene discovery, cell sorting and imaging, and new cellular and genetic therapies.

ONE MILLION OPAL CARDS ISSUED

- One million Opal cards have now been issued as almost 800 buses go live with Opal in Sydney's Inner West and South West, and the Central Coast.
- The NSW Government is modernising the public transport system and with one million customers now using Opal, Sydney is finally catching up with other global cities around the world.
- Opal is rolling out to even more buses in Sydney – 285 buses in the Inner West and 200 buses in South West Sydney – taking the total number of Opal buses to 3,860.
- On the NSW Central Coast, Opal electronic ticketing will go live on 263 buses from next week. Residents are already able to use their Opal cards on trains.

HIGH COURT GREEN LIGHT TO CONSORTING LAWS

- Criminal gangs operating in NSW have been dealt a major blow with the NSW Government's tough anti-consorting laws being found valid by the High Court.
- The anti-consorting laws give police the powers they need to disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations, including outlaw motorcycle gangs.
- Attorney General Brad Hazzard said he's not surprised criminals don't like the laws and wanted them overturned, but the decision of the High Court ensures they are here to stay.

- The anti-consorting laws carry a maximum penalty of three years jail for people who continue to associate with convicted offenders after receiving an official warning from police.

GOOD NEWS FOR NSW BEACHGOERS THIS SUMMER

- The latest State of the Beaches report has confirmed NSW beaches are among the best in the world.
- The annual scorecard shows 97 per cent of the 144 ocean beaches monitored by Beachwatch have been graded as Good or Very Good.
- Water quality has improved at 29 sites this year, moving from Good to Very Good.
- The State of the Beaches 2013-2014 report found 83% of monitored swimming locations were graded as Very Good or Good, compared to 81% in 2012-2013.

WYNYARD WALK TUNNELLING BEGINS

- Tunnelling of a new pedestrian walkway has now started as part of the Wynyard Walk project connecting the Sydney CBD with the new Barangaroo precinct.
- Wynyard Walk will allow pedestrians to travel from Wynyard to the Barangaroo waterfront in about six minutes, avoiding steep inclines and road crossings.
- The tunnel will be about 180 metres long and up to 9.5 metres wide and will provide easy, safe access for pedestrians moving around the western part of the CBD.
- A machine known as a roadhedge is digging the tunnel, starting at a work site on Napoleon Street and ending at Clarence Street, near Wynyard Station, in 2015.

TRANSFORMATION OF PARRAMATTA PARK UNDERWAY

- Significant strides are being made in the NSW Government's \$20 million upgrades to Parramatta Park.
- The works are being undertaken so Parramatta Park can conserve important heritage buildings and create new recreational facilities for locals and visitors.
- More than \$9.5 million will be spent upgrading 'The Crescent' events space, making the park a more attractive venue for international artists and promoters, while work has begun on the \$8.7 million picnic facilities and regional playground in 'The Paddocks' precinct.
- By the end of the year, 'The Gardens' precinct, with its newly conserved George Street Gatehouse, will begin a \$2 million upgrade to the heritage setting around the historic Gatehouse, including conservation of a convict bridge and landscape works.

FUNDING FOR WATER SAFETY BLACK SPOTS TO REDUCE DROWNINGS

- In an effort to reduce drowning deaths, \$2 million has been announced for funding for several organisations as part of the Water Safety Black Spots Fund.
- Eleven organisations will receive funding as part of the fourth round of the program.

- The recipients include AUSTSWIM, the Boating Industry Association of NSW, Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW, Surfing NSW, Swimming NSW and Yachting NSW.
- Specialist water safety and community organisations will carry out projects that will contribute to the NSW Government's commitment to reduce drowning deaths.

\$6.2 MILLION FACILITIES OFFICIALLY OPENED AT WILLIAM ROSE SCHOOL

- New \$6.2 million learning facilities at William Rose School, in Sydney's Seven Hills, have been officially opened to support students with complex learning needs.
- The new facilities ensure the school remains at the forefront of educational provision for its 64 students, from Kindergarten to Year 12, with complex learning needs.
- Demountable buildings have been replaced with permanent facilities and three new blocks have been constructed, including classrooms, a library and staffroom.
- William Rose School is one of 19 Schools for Specific Purposes upgraded by the NSW Government using \$94 million of residual Federal Government Building the Education Revolution (BER) funding.

SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUBS ACROSS NSW

- Funding worth almost \$500,000 has been announced for 13 rugby league clubs as part of the NSW Footy Facility Fund program.
- The NSW Footy Facility Fund supports grassroots Rugby League clubs by helping to support nominated projects - from upgrading storage sheds, canteens and oval lighting to installing women's change rooms, fencing or irrigation systems.
- This important initiative supports inclusive participation opportunities in rugby league for men, women, girls and boys in communities across NSW.
- The program, jointly administered by Sport and Recreation and the Australian Rugby League Commission/National Rugby League, is an initiative of the NSW Government and the NRL.

SCREEN NSW TO SUPPORT NEW FILM AND TV PROJECTS

- The NSW Government will invest \$580,000 in four new film and television projects which will bring more than \$11 million in direct production expenditure to NSW.
- The investment will support the creation of 659 jobs both in front of and behind the camera.
- Among the projects is the film 2:22, to be filmed by Australian actor and rising international star, Teresa Palmer.
- This year, the NSW Government has invested \$3.35 million in 21 major new film and television productions, bringing more than \$60 million in direct production expenditure to the State and creating an estimated 3,405 jobs.

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