

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 13 June 2014

REBUILDING NSW: A \$20 BILLION INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

- Commencing in the second half of 2016, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will direct an additional \$20 billion towards vital infrastructure.
- Key projects will be designed to boost productivity across the State while easing congestion in Sydney.
- Among other initiatives, Sydney projects include a second Harbour rail crossing and extensions to the WestConnex motorway, while in the regions there will be significant enhancements to water infrastructure and roads.
- The Premier announced the projects would be funded by a 49 per cent sale of the State-owned electricity network sector.

REBUILDING NSW: MASSIVE INVESTMENT FOR REGIONAL NSW

- A once-in-a-generation \$6 billion investment will be targeted at regional NSW to secure the future of communities across NSW.
- The investment would be made possible by the proposed long-term lease of 49 per cent of the State's electricity distribution and transmission businesses. There are also strong protections in place for regional jobs.
- The package includes a \$1 billion Regional Roads Fund, a \$1 billion Regional Water Fund and a statewide \$2 billion Schools and Hospitals Building Fund.
- The injection will ensure regional communities get access to world-class infrastructure, as well as creating jobs in regional areas and investing in projects.
- For more information go to: www.rebuilding.nsw.gov.au.

RAIL AND ROAD PROJECTS TO TACKLE CONGESTION IN SYDNEY

- The NSW Government will launch a once-in-a-generation assault on the urban congestion that has frustrated employers, workers and families in Sydney for decades should the \$20 billion funding for critical infrastructure be unlocked.
- We have announced a new rapid transit rail network, including a second Harbour rail crossing and Western Extension – that will unblock a major train bottleneck and transform Sydney.
- Sydney Rapid Transport will deliver three new CBD underground stations, 60 per cent more trains in the peak across the entire rail network and cater for an extra 100,000 people per hour.

- We have also begun planning work for two WestConnex extensions – including a direct link to the CBD – that would provide a genuine north to south corridor, benefiting residents in southern and northern Sydney, while also addressing key congestion pinch points.

KEEPING DOWNWARD PRESSURE ON ELECTRICITY BILLS

- The NSW Government's proposed long-term lease of 49 per cent of the State's electricity network businesses will keep downward pressure on electricity prices through ongoing price regulation and applying strict conditions to the transaction.
- These conditions include a guaranteed discount on electricity network prices by one per cent off the forecast regulated prices until 2019, and that the transaction will have no adverse impact on electricity reliability.
- Network prices will continue to be subject to regulation by the Australian Energy Regulator and standards such as reliability and safety will continue to be enforced through licences.
- An independent report prepared by Ernst & Young has confirmed NSW households have been paying significantly more in network costs than customers in Victoria and South Australia since those states privatised their assets in the 1990s.
- Ernst & Young found that while costs in Victoria and South Australia had fallen in real terms, NSW network costs had risen by 122 per cent.

MORE HOMES FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

- More land is being released and rezoned for thousands of new homes in Western Sydney, as new figures show 100,000 homes have now been built across NSW since the election of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government.
- Since 2011, rezoning of land for 49,000 new homes in Western Sydney's major growth centres has occurred, compared to just 19,800 under Labor over the previous three year period.
- The NSW Government has also announced the Budget will include measures to help even more families get into the housing market – with the threshold for the First Home Owner Grant for new homes boosted to \$750,000.
- The \$100,000 increase will make the dream for young families of owning their own home more achievable.

\$1 BILLION FOR REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Next week's NSW Government's 2014/15 Budget will feature a \$1 billion investment in regional infrastructure.
- The Water Security for the Regions program will receive \$325 million, \$110 million will go toward a new Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, and \$50 million will go toward a new Western NSW Freight Productivity Program.
- A significant project to receive funding is a new dam on the Belubula River in the State's Central West – known as the Needles Gap Dam – which will be the first dam constructed in Western NSW in almost 30 years.

- The NSW Liberal & Nationals Government understands the need to proactively invest in regional NSW and is building the high-quality infrastructure our communities need.

DELIVERING THE NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS

- The NSW 2014-15 Budget will include funding for the final stage of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, which will deliver enormous benefits to motorists in the Hunter who will avoid 11 sets of traffic lights.
- Hunter residents and businesses expect and deserve modern infrastructure, which is why the NSW Government is investing \$280 million dollars towards the fifth and final stage of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass Bypass, and next week's Budget will include \$150 million of this funding from Restart NSW.
- This investment in the Rankin Park to Jesmond section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass is in addition to the infrastructure that will be delivered across the Hunter using funds from the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is making strong investments in infrastructure across the Hunter to ensure the region's full economic potential is unlocked.

CONGESTION BUSTING RESPONSE TEAM EXPANDED

- The biggest road safety budget in NSW history is set to be delivered in the State Budget next week, which will include more than \$25 million to expand Sydney's congestion busting Motorcycle Response Team (MRT).
- Since they were established in 2012, the CBD and Parramatta Motorcycle Response Teams have carried out more than 26,000 patrol hours and have issued more than 28,000 infringements for mobile phone and drink driving offences.
- Our \$25.1 million commitment in the upcoming budget to fund enhanced police enforcement is more than double what was spent five years ago under State Labor.
- Funding will be provided for two additional officers for each team, which will be deployed in more parts of Sydney including Bondi, Kensington, Blacktown and Castle Hill – as well as high pedestrian areas including Military Road, King Street, City Road and Oxford Street.

NEW PROVIDERS OF HOMELESSNESS SERVICES ANNOUNCED

- Reforms have been unveiled to reshape the NSW specialist homelessness system to break the cycle of homelessness while also providing a strong safety net for those in need.
- A \$515 million package has been announced to reduce homelessness and reduce repeat homelessness by tackling its causes.
- The Going Home Staying Home reforms provide a record \$445 million over three years for non-government organisations to deliver homelessness services, to improve the lives of more than 52,000 people a year.

- The changes include an extra \$2 million per year specifically for women's services in the inner city, and include a reinstatement of the proposed reduction in funding for inner city specialist homelessness services of \$8.6 million per year.

UPGRADE FOR HUNTER SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL

- Hunter Sports High School will have its facilities completely overhauled by the NSW Government, with funding committed in next week's State Budget to begin the transformation.
- The Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund is making a contribution of \$5.3 million to this important upgrade, and demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to sensible, long term investment in the Hunter Region.
- A design process will begin preparing options to upgrade all areas of the school including classrooms, the library and training facilities.
- Hunter Sports High School has effectively been in a state of disrepair since it was badly damaged in the Newcastle Earthquake in 1989.

Follow the NSW Government:

Twitter @MikeBairdMP

Facebook www.facebook.com/mikebairdMP