

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 14 November 2014

GAS PLAN DRAWS A LINE IN THE SAND

- The NSW Government has released a comprehensive plan to deliver world's best practice on Coal Seam Gas (CSG) to NSW.
- The NSW Gas Plan adopts all recommendations in the final report by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer and sets a clear, strategic framework to deliver world's best practice regulation of the CSG industry while securing vital gas supplies for the State.
- A secure gas supply is vital for our 500 heavy industry gas users, 33,000 businesses and 1.2 million households.
- All future gas exploration will be done on our terms - the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to ensuring any growth in the State's gas industry is done safely and sustainably, to world's best practice standards.
- The NSW Gas Plan can be viewed at www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/

11,000 EXTRA HOMES TO CONTINUE SYDNEY'S BUILDING BOOM

- Minister for Planning Pru Goward has unveiled plans to keep driving Western Sydney's housing boom, with more homes and shopping districts around the North West and South West rail links.
- Land releases at Leppington and around the future Cudgegong Road Station will unlock 11,000 new houses, along with the shops, cafes, parks, road upgrades and schools that will help make them homes.
- Our plan means future residents will live close to new shops, can choose from different styles of homes, and have access to terrific new public transport services.
- This is yet more proof that the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is planning for the future by ensuring growth areas have essential infrastructure before the people move in.

\$67 MILLION MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY HONOURS DAME MARIE BASHIR

- Former NSW Governor Dame Marie Bashir has been recognised for her significant contribution to mental health care in NSW with the opening of a \$67 million mental health facility at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital named in her honour.

- The new 73-bed centre is a joint initiative between Sydney Local Health District, the NSW Government and the University of Sydney. It is one of most advanced psychiatric centres in the world.
- The centre would provide a comprehensive range of mental health treatment facilities, as well as dedicated research capacity, putting it at the forefront of international best practice in psychiatric care.
- The six-storey facility will include a six-bed short-stay unit, a ground-floor assessment unit, physical therapies suite, acute adult inpatient services - including capacity to manage mothers and babies in a defined pod - a high dependency unit, as well as seven beds dedicated for research.

CAMDEN VALLEY WAY UPGRADES OPEN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

- The first stages of the \$280 million Camden Valley Way upgrade have opened to traffic ahead of schedule.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals made an election commitment to prioritise this road - we started construction in 2012 and now Stages 1 and 2 are not only complete but have opened four months ahead of schedule.
- Camden Valley Way is the primary route for communities living in the South West Growth Centre, linking the Hume Highway and the M7 and M5 interchange at Prestons with Camden, Narellan and Liverpool.
- Meantime the Australian and NSW Governments have announced four successful projects for Round One of the \$200 million Western Sydney Local Roads Package to ease congestion and create local jobs, including upgrades to Eagle Vale Drive and The Northern Road and Erskine Park Road Intersection.

NEW NATIONAL PARK TO BOOST WETLAND CONSERVATION

- Over 5000 hectares of internationally significant wetlands will be protected following the creation of the Everlasting Swamp National Park and the expansion to the Gwydir Wetlands State Conservation Area and Doodle Comer Swamp Nature Reserve.
- Creating the Everlasting Swamp National Park near Maclean in northern NSW will protect one of our largest remaining coastal floodplain wetlands, combining an additional 1700 hectares of land to the existing Everlasting Swamp State Conservation Area.
- The Everlasting Swamp and the adjacent Imersons Swamp form one of the largest coastal floodplain wetlands remaining in NSW. Intact ecosystems of this size are extremely rare and globally significant.
- The creation of a new national park will protect vulnerable wildlife and habitats, preserve water quality and natural connectivity in the landscape. It will enhance the protection of vulnerable floodplain wetlands, and protect wetland and estuarine biodiversity.

BLACKTOWN HOSPITAL LEADS THE WAY INTO A DIGITAL FUTURE

- The electronic medical records system at Blacktown Hospital is transforming the way staff manage patient care.
- Paper-Lite - the name given by the Western Sydney Local Health District to the implementation of its state-of-the-art medical records system – holds the medical records of all new patients, while existing and past patient records are in the process of being digitised.
- By moving away from paper records, Blacktown Hospital staff can quickly, easily and securely access patient records.
- Blacktown Hospital is the site of a massive health infrastructure project - the five-storey Clinical Services Building, which is the centrepiece of the \$322 million Stage 1 Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital (BMDH) redevelopment.

NSW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES REGIONAL WATER SECURITY SHORTLIST

- Twenty-nine local infrastructure projects in regional NSW have been shortlisted for potential funding under the NSW Government's Water Security for Regions program.
- Shortlisted projects include: new pipelines in the Broken Hill, Cabonne, Orange, Tweed and Upper Hunter local government areas; bore projects in Brewarrina, Conargo, Cowra, Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shires; and water supply upgrades in Bombala, Carrathool and Upper Lachlan Shires.
- The shortlisted applicants now have four weeks to prepare detailed applications to secure a share of up to \$83 million in funding.
- Water Security for Regions was announced earlier this year as a key part of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's efforts to provide improved water security for regional communities.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE: JOINT ORGANISATION PILOTS ANNOUNCED

- The five successful Joint Organisation pilots to be rolled out across the State have been announced, as part of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's Fit for the Future reforms to strengthen local government and communities.
- As part of the Fit for the Future reforms the NSW Government announced record funding of up to \$1 billion to ensure NSW has strong, modern councils to deliver the housing, jobs and local infrastructure people need.
- Joint Organisations will enable councils to work together more effectively within their regions, as well as transform the way State and local government collaborate on key community priorities that cut across traditional boundaries such as jobs, planning and infrastructure.
- The five regional groups of councils to pilot Joint Organisations are Central West, Hunter, Illawarra, Namoi and Riverina.

\$50,000 TO SUPPORT FOUR NEW GALLERY PROJECTS

- Four public galleries will share in \$50,000 of NSW Government funding to support the research and development of new exhibitions.
- The funding assists galleries to engage a professional curator to research and develop a new exhibition to enhance their artistic program.
- Projects to receive curatorial support funding are: Albury Regional Art Gallery, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, Newcastle Art Gallery and Goulburn Regional Art Gallery.
- The funding is part of the Liberals & Nationals commitment to arts and culture in NSW, and acknowledges the very important role regional and public galleries play in cultural, creative, social and economic development.

GOOGLE IT - NSW NATIONAL PARK STREET VIEW

- Environment Minister Rob Stokes has launched Google Street View imagery of some of the most picturesque and visited national parks in NSW.
- The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is the first organisation in Australia to be part of the Google program, which allows organisations to borrow the Trekker technology to collect imagery of hard to reach places and help map the world.
- NPWS have captured 360-degree imagery of 25 parks from Kosciuszko to Cape Byron, covering more than 400 kilometres of walking tracks and 700 kilometres of roads and trails.
- In conjunction with the NSW National Parks website, this imagery will give people another great way to plan their park visits, check walking tracks for suitability and learn about the area beforehand.

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