

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 15 August 2014**

### **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON \$20 BILLION PLAN TO REBUILD NSW**

- The NSW Government is seeking community feedback on its plan to unlock \$20 billion in infrastructure funding by undertaking a long-term lease of 49 per cent of “poles and wires” network businesses.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals have outlined a clear plan to improve the daily lives of families across NSW by investing in our roads and rail networks, our schools and hospitals, and our water infrastructure.
- The community is encouraged to have their say, in the first step of the consultation process on specific issues or concerns regarding the Rebuilding NSW plan and the proposed partial lease.
- Interested parties are invited to respond to the initial discussion paper by 19 September 2014. For more details visit [www.rebuilding.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rebuilding.nsw.gov.au).

### **FIXING THE M4: KEY MILESTONES DELIVERING WESTCONNEX**

- Key milestones were announced in the delivery of WestConnex this week, including the release of the M4 Widening Environmental Impact Statement.
- The M4 Widening is part of WestConnex, Australia’s biggest urban road project, which will provide greater Sydney with a continuous free flowing motorway.
- The EIS shows the project will achieve travel time savings of up to 74 per cent for motorists using this stretch of WestConnex – saving motorists up to 100,000 hours of travel time a day and \$1 million a day on car maintenance.
- Over the next month, businesses, residents and motorists will be consulted. For more information visit [www.westconnex.com.au](http://www.westconnex.com.au).

### **PREMIER’S INNOVATION INITIATIVE LAUNCHED**

- NSW Premier Mike Baird launched the Premier’s Innovation Initiative, which will use ‘crowdsourcing’ to solve issues of congestion, social housing assets and open data.
- A competitive selection process will be undertaken to identify inventive solutions to these issues from private and non-government organisations.
- It follows the lead from countries like the UK and US where public services have been improved by community working with Governments.

- The initiative focuses on four areas: congestion, social housing assets, open data and open ideas, where the public nominates areas.
- For more information visit [www.nsw.gov.au/innovate](http://www.nsw.gov.au/innovate).

## **GIVING BUSINESS A VOICE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

- Steps are being taken to give businesses in the City of Sydney a greater voice in local government elections.
- Under the proposed changes, non-resident owners and occupiers are automatically enrolled on the electoral roll, with up to two persons eligible to be enrolled. In contrast to the current practice, they will remain on the non-residential roll between elections.
- Current arrangements effectively disenfranchise a large proportion of those who pay the rates of the City of Sydney, and are most directly impacted by council decisions.
- This is a fundamental flaw in the democratic system of local government elections, which is denying many businesses a say in how their council is run.

## **MORE THAN 9,000 EXTRA WEEKLY PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES**

- More than 9,000 extra weekly public transport services have been delivered to the people of NSW since March 2011.
- The services include 7,800 extra bus, 1,190 extra train, 220 extra ferry services, 4,800 more bus, 734 more train and 84 more ferry services in Western Sydney.
- Almost 100 extra weekly services began in the west and north west this month. There are 15 million customer journeys on buses annually in the north west, and the NSW Government is working to meet this demand.
- Other improvements include the rollout of 78 brand new air-conditioned Waratah trains, real-time mobile phone apps for trains and buses, and improved security, and more than 500,000 Opal cards issued.

## **MORE GOVERNMENT ONE-STOP SHOPS ON THE WAY**

- A further 10 locations for Service NSW centres have been announced as the NSW Government continues to expand the one-stop shop government network.
- Our new Service Centres are delivering a new standard of public sector customer service, enabling customers to undertake more than 800 transactions – everything from applying for a driver licence, a Seniors Card or paying a fine.
- The new Service NSW centre locations are: Bankstown, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Burwood, Campbelltown, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Goulburn, Marrickville and Wetherill Park.
- For more information visit [www.service.nsw.gov.au](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au) or call 13 77 88.

## **WORK COMPLETED ON M2 TO EXTEND 100KM/H SPEED LIMIT**

- Motorists travelling westbound on the M2 will now experience a 100km/h speed zone along the full 21 kilometre stretch, following the completion of safety work requested by the NSW Government.

- The upgrade to widen the bus stop lanes was a direct request from the NSW Government to make the roads safer for those using public transport, and to improve the free flow of traffic to reduce travel times.
- This work complements the completion of the upgrade to widen the motorway to deliver faster travel times for the 100,000 motorists that use the road every day.
- Motorists using the Hills M2, instead of the alternative Epping Road route, will experience average travel time savings of 36 minutes and 41 minutes in the afternoon.

## **THE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015 SECURED**

- Sydney's signature Autumn Racing Carnival event, The Championships, has been secured for 2015 with the NSW Government pledging to invest \$10 million towards staging the event.
- This year, more than 50,000 people attended the two-day event and, with greater brand awareness and more time to prepare, next year's event will be bigger and better.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals want a strong and viable racing industry throughout NSW and are proud to support what will become the State's premier racing event.
- Some of the funding will be directed towards a new quarantine station to allow foreign horses to race in NSW year round without having to go through Victoria.

## **\$4.4 MILLION FACILITIES OPENED AT BATES DRIVE SCHOOL**

- The NSW Government has officially opened new education facilities worth \$4.4 million at Bates Drive School in Sydney's south.
- Work undertaken at Bates Drive School included replacing demountable classrooms, building a new administration block and Covered Outdoor Learning Area and installing solar heating for the hydrotherapy pool.
- Bates Drive School is one of 19 Schools for Specific Purposes upgraded by the NSW Government using \$94 million of residual Building the Education Revolution (BER) funding.
- Schools for Specific Purposes cater for students with some of the most complex learning needs.

## **NEW HOMES FOR HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE**

- More than 80 homeless young people will benefit from 47 new homes in Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains and the Mid-North Coast.
- A total of \$12.25 million - \$7.5 million from the NSW Government and \$4.75 million from the Commonwealth - has been set aside under the Transitional National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.
- A youth housing company, My Foundations Youth Housing has been established by the NSW Government in partnership with Yfoundations to get young people back into education, training or employment.

- My Foundations Youth Housing will increase its portfolio to operate across NSW, providing property and tenancy management services on a local basis.

## **WATER INNOVATION SECURING SYDNEY'S WATER SUPPLY**

- Close to one million litres of water will be saved every day as a result of a ground-breaking partnership between Sydney Water and the private sector at the new residential and commercial development at Central Park Broadway.
- The new water recycling facility - on the site of the old Carlton Brewery at Broadway - is the largest of its kind in the world and will set the standard for water reuse and efficiency in new developments across Sydney.
- The water recycling facility on the site collects and treats sewage and wastewater, then distributes recycled water for various uses including the flushing of toilets, cold water clothes washing and car washing, which make up 50 per cent of traditional potable water use.
- The water is also used to irrigate the impressive 170 metre vertical garden - the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

## **MARINE FISH STOCKING: MORE REASONS TO FISH IN NSW**

- Fish stocks along the coastline will receive a major boost with the NSW Government implementing a new marine fish stocking program to enhance recreational fishing.
- The NSW Marine Fish Stocking Program will see about four million juvenile Eastern king prawns stocked in 10 locations along the coast during 2014-15, starting this summer.
- This marine stocking project is another great example of how money raised through the recreational fishing fee is being invested back into projects and initiatives that directly benefit recreational anglers.
- The following 10 locations have been identified as potential stocking locations: Curalo Lagoon, Wallagoot Lake, Nelson Lake, Lake Tabourie, Burrill Lake, Lake Conjola, Swan Lake, Narrabeen Lagoon, Wamberal Lagoon and Khappinghat Creek.

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