

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 19 September 2014

SOUTH WEST RAIL LINK CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

- Construction of the new 11.4 kilometre South West Rail Link is now complete – 12 months ahead of schedule and \$300 million under budget.
- The \$2.1 billion project is on track to have customers boarding trains early next year after Sydney Trains conducts its testing, commissioning and staff training.
- Customers using the rail link will benefit from world class modern facilities including the upgraded Glenfield Station, two brand new stations and interchanges at Edmondson Park and Leppington, and 1,250 customer parking spaces.
- This project delivers on an election promise as the NSW Government gets on with the job of delivering vital infrastructure for this fast-growing part of Sydney.

\$3.7 BILLION NORTH WEST RAIL LINK OPERATIONS CONTRACT SIGNED

- Sydney's brand new rapid transit trains will run every four minutes during the peak on the North West Rail Link, as part of a \$3.7 billion contract signed by the NSW Government.
- The rail link will be Australia's first fully-automated rapid transit rail network, delivering eight new railway stations and 4,000 commuter car parking spaces.
- We have awarded the largest ever Public Private Partnership to the Northwest Rapid Transit consortium, which will deliver the project by the first half of 2019.
- The NSW Government is transforming and modernising public transport in Sydney through projects such as the North West Rail Link.

COMPASSIONATE CARE: NSW LEADS THE WAY ON MEDICAL CANNABIS

- A clinical trial for medical cannabis will be established by the NSW Government, to further explore the role cannabis can play in providing relief for patients suffering from a range of debilitating or terminal illnesses.
- The NSW Government has formed a working group to set up the clinical trial, due to report back by the end of 2014.
- Concerns around issues of supply and distribution will be covered in the trial.
- NSW Police guidelines will also be formalised to allow officers to exercise their discretion not to charge terminally ill adults who use cannabis to alleviate their symptoms, or their carers.

PRE-CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON STAGE 2 OF WESTCONNEX

- Relief for motorists using Sydney's notorious M5 East is a step closer with drilling now underway along the corridor as part of the WestConnex project.
- The Premier and Roads Minister joined Federal Treasurer Joe Hockey at the first of about 100 geotechnical drills, which will occur along the M5 East route as part of pre-construction work for the new tunnels.
- Cooperation between the NSW and Australian Government has enabled the fast-tracking of WestConnex, so both the M4 and M5 sections can open to traffic in 2019.
- We are calling on experts from around the world to throw their hats into the ring to help design the project that will transform the way motorists travel around Sydney.

BAIL ACT REFORMS PASS PARLIAMENT

- Changes to the Bail Act that will help safeguard the community and make it harder for serious offenders to get bail have been passed by the NSW Parliament.
- The changes place a new onus on those accused of the most serious offences to "show cause" why they should not be detained.
- The provision will apply to people accused of a serious offence that: carries a life sentence; was committed while on bail or parole; involves the sexual assault of a child; involves the use of a firearm; involves the manufacture or supply of commercial quantities of a prohibited drug; or involves a repeat act of serious personal violence.
- The NSW Government has accepted all recommendations made by former Attorney General John Hatzistergos following his independent review of the new Bail Act.

TAFE NSW MEETS DEMAND FOR LEARNING ON THE GO

- TAFE NSW is making it easier for people to learn anywhere, anytime, launching a range of fully online courses available on mobile devices.
- TAFE NSW Online will offer courses in fields such as building and construction, accounting and underground coal mining — accessible from any smart phone, tablet or computer.
- TAFE NSW Online allows students to start, pause and continue their learning and access online support services. The easy-to-use interface incorporates access to all the readings, course notes, videos and support material for each level.
- Visit TAFE NSW Online at www.tafenswonline.edu.au

NSW GOVERNMENT FUNDING BOOST FOR REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECTS

- More than \$670,000 has been announced for three tourism businesses to develop their products and attract more tourists to regional NSW.
- The businesses are based at Port Stephens, the Southern Highlands and Parkes and will benefit from the NSW Government's investment under the Regional Visitor Economy Fund, which helps boost tourism across the State.

- Regional tourism is an important and vital contributor to the State's economy.
- For the year ending March 2014, Regional NSW received 18.8 million overnight visitors, which accounted for more than \$9.8 billion in visitor expenditure to the State.

FAMOUS HARBOUR WALK RESTORED AT FARM COVE

- An iconic part of the Sydney Harbour foreshore landscape will be secured for future generations to enjoy, following an \$8.6 million NSW Government restoration project.
- The historic 136-year-old Farm Cove seawall, where the Royal Botanic Garden meets the harbour's edge, has been restored so the structure will remain secure for another 100 years.
- The wall is integral to protecting a walking path along the water's edge, a quintessential Sydney experience for many of the nine million visitors to the garden each year.
- The original wall spans 1.2 kilometres in length and took more than 30 years to build (1848–1879) and is of significant cultural heritage importance to NSW and Australia.

IMPROVING CBD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

- New 40km/h speed limits across a large part of Sydney's CBD will be rolled out from Saturday 27 September to further improve pedestrian safety.
- The changes mean the CBD will be even safer ahead of the busy summer months including Christmas.
- The changes place a premium on pedestrian safety, with research showing vehicles that hit a pedestrian while travelling at 50km/h are twice as likely to cause a fatality as the same vehicle travelling at 40km/h.
- The new 40km/h limit zones are in addition to 40km/h limits that already operate in large parts of the central Sydney and other CBDs like North Sydney, Chatswood and Parramatta.

GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$15M IN TEACHER HOUSING

- The NSW Government has invested more than \$15 million in teacher housing since 2011 to help attract and retain teachers in regional and rural areas across the State.
- The NSW Government is delivering quality housing suitable for teachers in areas where there is an insufficient supply in the private rental market, through the Teacher Housing Authority.
- Since 2011 new accommodation has been built or purchased in the following areas: Broken Hill, Bourke, Condobolin, Coonabarabran, Lightning Ridge, Menindee, Nyngan, Marra Creek and Wilcannia.
- Teacher housing is a boost for local business as well as education, with the THA using local tradespeople and sourcing material locally wherever possible.

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