

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 23 May 2014

LICENCE AND PINK SLIP CHANGES IN NSW

- The NSW Government is introducing 10-year driver licences and extending the validity of light vehicle safety inspection reports (or pink slips) to make life easier for car owners across the state.
- Currently, all light vehicles more than five years old require a pink slip in order to renew their registration. From the end of this year pink slips will be valid for six months rather than six weeks.
- This will give more than three million vehicle owners more flexibility to choose a convenient time for their annual vehicle safety inspection, delivering a cost and time benefit to customers.
- By April 2015, NSW Government will also provide customers between the ages of 21 and 44 with the option of a 10-year driver licence. This means motorists with a good driving record won't have to make as many trips to a Roads and Maritime Services registry or Services NSW centre to have their licences renewed.

NEWCASTLE LIGHT RAIL ROUTE ANNOUNCED

- The NSW Government has announced the Newcastle Light Rail route will be a hybrid option that will include the rail corridor and Hunter Street.
- Light rail will travel east from the new Wickham transport interchange along the existing rail corridor, before moving south to connect with Hunter Street and Scott Street, and terminating at Pacific Park.
- The route was identified following Urban Growth NSW's engagement in the project, and utilises the existing rail corridor and servicing the city centre, while avoiding any major impact on Hunter Street Mall.
- Community consultation has shown Newcastle residents and businesses want access to the waterfront and an option to extend the light rail in the future.

VIVID SYDNEY KICKS OFF BIGGER AND BRIGHTER THAN EVER

- Vivid Sydney kicks off today and promises to be bigger and better than ever, with visitors able to follow an unbroken trail of light from Circular Quay to North Sydney.
- Martin Place lights up for the first time this year, and is one of five new festival precincts, together with Carriageworks, The University of Sydney, The Star and Harbour Lights on Sydney Harbour.

- Expanding Vivid to areas like Martin Place will make this year's festival bigger than ever, and draws upon last year's success, which attracted more than 800,000 visitors and generated more than \$20 million in economic activity.
- Vivid Sydney is one of many major events supported by the NSW Government and helps achieve our goal of doubling overnight visitor expenditure by 2020.

INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY FOR FRONTLINE POLICE

- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is investing \$4 million over two years to roll-out body worn video cameras for frontline police officers.
- The NSW Police Force has been trialling the use of body worn video for frontline officers with positive results.
- The devices will now be supplied to frontline police, with priority given to the Public Order and Riot Squad and Police Transport Command.
- Meanwhile, an extra \$7 million will be allocated over the next two years for the continued rollout of mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology.

1,200 STAFF PARKING SPACES HANDED BACK TO TRAIN CUSTOMERS

- Work is underway to release around 1,200 staff car parking spaces for Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink customers at close to 100 stations across the state.
- Earlier this year, the NSW Government announced 1,000 staff car parks would be released to customers. The NSW Government has now identified 1,200 spaces across the network, including many in Western Sydney, and customers will soon start seeing more commuter car parking at almost 100 stations.
- The first spaces are being made available within days, with all 1,200 spaces becoming progressively available to customers over the next 12-18 months.
- The top 20 stations according to number of spaces that will be released include: approximately 179 spaces in Campbelltown, 138 spaces in Blacktown, 138 spaces in Penrith, 39 spaces in Newcastle, and approximately 38 spaces in Wollongong.

NEW EDUCATION FACILITIES OPENED

- NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli this week officially opened new and upgraded \$7.1 million education facilities at Hurstville Public School in Sydney's south – fulfilling an election commitment.
- The Premier also this week officially opened new facilities worth \$2.8 million at Anson Street School at Orange in the state's Central West, using residual funds from the Commonwealth's BER program.
- Since 2011, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has committed more than \$2.4 billion to school maintenance and infrastructure across the state, ensuring students and teachers have access to modern education facilities.

NEW RECRUITS JOIN FIREFIGHTING RANKS

- After a long selection process and a gruelling 13 week course, 19 recruit firefighters have been officially welcomed into the ranks of Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW).

- Minister for Police and Emergency Services Stuart Ayres congratulated the new recruits on successfully completing the course and said they were about to embark on a unique and rewarding career.
- The recruits have been trained in firefighting, road crash rescue, high-angle rescue, community risk management, fire technology and hazardous materials management.
- The recruits will join fire crews across greater Sydney including Silverwater, Campsie, Schofields, The Rocks, Willoughby and Campbelltown.

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON WESTERN SYDNEY'S SUPER PARK

- Work is underway to create a 200 hectare \$14 million Western Sydney 'super park' at Bungarabee, bordering Blacktown, Doonside and Eastern Creek.
- The population of Western Sydney is set to top three million in coming years, and with this growth comes the need for more locally based leisure, environmental, recreational and large scale tourist attractions.
- The park will be home to a regional play and recreational area, a bushland corridor, and an outdoor event and entertainment space.
- When complete, Western Sydney will have a park to rival New York's Central Park and Sydney's Centennial Park.

NEW ADVO LAWS GIVE VICTIMS SWIFT PROTECTION

- Senior police are now able to issue provisional Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs) to provide immediate protection for victims.
- Provisional ADVOs are issued in situations where a person urgently needs protection from domestic violence.
- Police officers of the rank of sergeant or above can now issue the provisional orders and in most cases will no longer have to go through the process of applying to a court registrar or authorised justice.
- The changes that came into force this week also enable police officers to detain or remove a defendant from the scene to secure the victim's safety.

MINERALS TASKFORCE TO DRIVE INDUSTRY

- A taskforce will be established to develop a Minerals Industry Action Plan to deliver economic growth to NSW over the next decade.
- The action plan will be the first of its kind, and demonstrating how serious the NSW Government is in boosting the state's economy and creating employment.
- It will provide a roadmap for the growth in the minerals sector, which provides 33,000 direct jobs and more than 130,000 support jobs, while balancing the need to protect our valuable agricultural land and water resources.
- The Minerals Industry Taskforce will be chaired by Rob Adamson, Managing Director, RFC Ambrian. Mr Adamson has more than 20 years in senior investment and advisory roles.

MONA VALE BEACHSIDE REHABILITATION UNIT OFFICIALLY OPENED

- The NSW Government has officially opened a new 26-bed rehabilitation unit at Mona Vale Hospital.
- The unit has been built using \$10.5 million allocated under a national partnership with the Commonwealth Government and a further \$1.5 million from the NSW Government.
- The Beachside Rehabilitation Unit is adjacent to the hospital's existing Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit, which has 30 beds.
- The new unit will allow patients to transfer sooner from an acute hospital bed and ensure their continuum of care.

CLARRIE HALL DAM UPGRADE COMPLETE

- A major upgrade to Clarrie Hall Dam has boosted safety and water security for communities in the Northern Rivers region.
- The NSW Government contributed \$1.3 million to help Tweed Shire Council meet the cost of the \$7.3 million upgrade.
- The upgrade will guarantee the safety of local communities and properties downstream from the dam in the event of a major flood.

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