

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 24 January 2014

TACKLING DRUG & ALCOHOL-FUELLED VIOLENCE

- Lockouts for the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross and an eight year mandatory minimum sentence for drug and alcohol affected one-punch assaults will be introduced as part of the NSW Government's package to make our streets safer.
- The measures announced build on our targeted approach to tackling drug and alcohol-fuelled violence since we came to government, including the 'Three Strikes' regime, increasing police numbers and powers and improving public transport.
- We're getting on with the job of making our streets safer. The initiatives already implemented have seen a fall in violence on licenced premises, but more improvement is needed and that's the basis of these measures.

This tough and comprehensive package includes:

- **Eight year mandatory minimum sentence** for those convicted under new one punch laws where the offender is intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol, plus new mandatory minimum sentences for violent assaults where intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol;
- **Introduction of 1.30am lockouts and 3am last drinks** across an expanded CBD precinct to include Kings Cross to Darling Harbour, The Rocks to Haymarket and Darlinghurst;
- **New state-wide 10pm closing time for all bottle shops and liquor stores;**
- Increasing the **maximum sentence to 25 years for the illegal supply and possession of steroids** – up from two years;
- **Increased on-the-spot fines** to \$1,100 for continued intoxicated and disorderly behaviour disobeying a police move-on order – an increase of more than five times;
- **Community awareness and media campaign to address the culture of binge drinking** and the associated drug and alcohol related violence;
- **Free buses running every ten minutes from Kings Cross to the CBD** to connect with existing NightRide services on Friday and Saturday nights;
- **Remove voluntary intoxication by drugs or alcohol as a mitigating factor** when courts determine sentences;
- **Increasing maximum penalties by two years where drugs and/or alcohol are aggravating factors for violent crimes** including assault causing grievous bodily harm, reckless bodily harm, assault against police, affray and sexual assault;
- **Enabling Police to impose an immediate CBD precinct ban** of up to 48 hours for trouble-makers;
- Introduction of a **periodic risk-based licencing scheme** with higher fees imposed for venues and outlets that have later trading hours, poor compliance histories or are in high risk locations;
- A **precinct-wide freeze on liquor licences** for new pubs and clubs will be introduced.

ICAC RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENTED: MINING LICENCES CANCELLED

- The NSW Government will introduce legislation to cancel the exploration licences for Doyles Creek, Mt Penny and Glendon Brook.
- The cancellation of the licences was recommended by the Independent Commission Against Corruption.
- The legislation will require all exploration data on the tenements to be provided to the NSW Government, and provide that the licence holders will remain responsible for any necessary rehabilitation works on the sites.
- No compensation is to be provided for the cancellation of these licences.

OPAL ROLLS INTO STRATHFIELD AND CENTRAL COAST

- The NSW Government has announced the Opal electronic ticketing card will be rolled-out to an additional 55 train stations, giving thousands more customers a cheaper, faster and more convenient journey.
- From 31 January, Opal will be extended to train stations from Redfern to Strathfield, Strathfield to Hornsby, Chatswood to Wyong, and Epping to Chatswood.
- Opal is already accepted on all Sydney Ferries services, on two bus routes and at 17 train stations from the CBD north to Chatswood, in addition to the City Circle and stations to Bondi Junction.
- This important project is modernising the way people use public transport. By the end of 2014, 40 ferry wharves, more than 300 train stations and more than 5,000 buses will be Opal accessible, with light rail due in 2015.

TRAIN ON-TIME RUNNING EXCEEDS TARGETS

- Sydney Trains has achieved a strong performance in its first six months of operation, exceeding Peak Punctuality and On Time Running (OTR) targets, and introducing more than 1,000 new services as part of the new timetable.
- New figures show Sydney Trains achieved an overall Peak Punctuality of 94 per cent and OTR of 94.5 per cent – exceeding its 92 per cent target for both measures.
- The NSW Government has worked tirelessly to show customers they are our number one priority and we know from their positive feedback customers are starting to see major improvements.
- Customers now have faster journey times, cleaner trains, new technology providing real-time information on mobile apps, and improved announcements.

INTERN DOCTORS BEGIN WORK IN HOSPITALS ACROSS NSW

- A record 959 medical graduates have this week started their year-long internship in the State's public hospitals.
- During their one-year internship, the graduates will complete compulsory terms in the specialties of medicine, surgery and emergency and rotate through metropolitan, regional and rural hospitals.

- NSW employs more interns than any other state or territory in Australia and this year's intake is an increase of 32 places from 2013.
- The Premier and Health Minister this week personally greeted interns at Westmead Hospital on their first day, as well as speaking to interns in Orange and Coffs Harbour via teleconference as part of the 177 interns who are currently based at regional and rural hospitals.

\$30,000 FOR GOPRO CAMERAS TO HELP MARINE RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

- The 3,200 volunteer members of Marine Rescue NSW are being equipped with rescue and training cameras to help them better protect the boating community.
- The NSW Government has invested \$30,000 in 70 GoPro cameras which will be installed on the frontline rescue fleet.
- The operational footage from these video cameras will be invaluable in providing volunteers with realistic training scenarios and rescue debriefings.

BLUE MOUNTAINS BUSH FIRE CLEAN UP ALMOST COMPLETE

- The NSW Government has praised the efforts of those involved in the Blue Mountains bush fire clean-up, with more than 90 per cent of properties cleared three months on from the disaster.
- 181 properties out of 196 have been cleaned up. 12 of the 15 remaining sites are either being cleared independently by residents or by insurers outside of government contracts.
- We've been able to clear nearly all of the affected properties in just over three months, in proof that the NSW Government's response was the right one.

NSW'S FIRST STRATEGY TO REDUCE ADULT OBESITY

- The first stage of the NSW Government's five year strategy to reduce overweight and obesity levels in the State has been launched, as part of the State's first ever dedicated plan to address adult overweight and obesity levels.
- The NSW Government will deliver more than \$136 million through the *NSW Healthy Eating Active Living Strategy*, for evidence-based programs that target chronic diseases and obesity.
- The first component of the strategy is a free telephone-based service, Get Healthy, staffed by qualified health coaches who provide information and ongoing, personalised support designed to help individuals achieve their weight loss goals.
- Getting Healthy starts with a phone call to 1300 806 258 or by logging onto the website www.gethealthynsw.com.au

NEW SPRINKLER SYSTEMS FOR AGED CARE

- The aged care industry is working cooperatively with the NSW Government to ensure all nursing homes in the State are fitted with fire sprinkler systems.

- New laws that came into effect 12 months ago require all NSW nursing homes to have fire sprinkler systems installed.
- Almost half of the 885 Commonwealth-accredited aged care facilities registered with the NSW Government are already fitted with fire sprinkler systems. The remaining nursing homes must meet either a September 2014 or March 2016 deadline.
- Implementation plans show that as of September 2013, work had commenced on retrofitting sprinklers in 78 per cent of these facilities. Around 40 per cent are in the first phase of their installation, the project planning phase.

MAJOR OVERHAUL FOR BLACKTOWN STATION

- A major refurbishment of Blacktown Station has been announced, which will see the station undergo a major refresh and four of the station's 10 lifts replaced.
- The project includes lighting improvements, the painting of doorways, walls and walkways, deep cleaning and minor repair works like replacing tiles. Work will start on replacing the first of the lifts shortly.
- The \$3.1 million lift replacement project involves replacing four out-dated hydraulic lifts with state-of-the-art air-conditioned electric lifts which are wheelchair-friendly and include braille signage.
- The work forms part of a wider station refresh program which will see around \$20 million invested on improving a number of stations this financial year.

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR GOULBURN HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

- The NSW Government has announced \$600,000 in funding to plan the redevelopment of Goulburn Hospital.
- The core of Goulburn Hospital is 100 years old and the NSW Liberals & Nationals are committed to delivering a first class facility so patients are able to access quality care, closer to home.
- The redevelopment of Goulburn Hospital will deliver new Emergency Department, inpatient beds, ICU/HDU and paediatrics services with refurbishment of maternity and ambulatory care services.
- The planning process will involve consultation with local staff, clinicians and management to identify the key clinical priorities.

THREE SISTERS DECLARED AN ABORIGINAL PLACE

- The Three Sisters at Katoomba, in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, has become the 98th Aboriginal Place to be declared in NSW.
- The three sisters are significant to Aboriginal culture as a mythical place of legends and stories, and this declaration recognises the special cultural, social and historic significance of the site to the Aboriginal community.
- More than 600,000 visit the site annually, and everyone is encouraged to visit the Blue Mountains and learn about the history of this special place.

- The NSW Government is committed to the recognition and conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage, with 26 Aboriginal Places declared since March 2011.

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