

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 24 October 2014**

### **NSW IS NUMBER ONE AGAIN – AND IT'S OFFICIAL**

- NSW has regained the number one position in Australia for economic performance.
- The CommSec “State Of The States” Report compares quarterly performance between jurisdictions on a range of areas including economic growth, construction, retail trade, housing, unemployment and population.
- The change at the top of the leader-board is the first since July 2011, and comes less than a week after a strengthening in the State’s credit rating.
- The outstanding result follows more than three years of hard work and discipline by the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government, and shows the repair work is paying dividends and confidence has returned.

### **NEW CANCER CENTRE OPENS AT PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL**

- The first stage of a new \$79.8 cancer treatment and research centre has been officially opened at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, to greatly improve the lives of those living with and recovering from cancer.
- Stage One of the Nelune Comprehensive Cancer Centre and Scientia Clinical Research facility was opened by NSW Premier Mike Baird and Health Minister Jillian Skinner this week.
- Stage One was constructed underground to accommodate four radiotherapy bunkers, with the first cancer patients to be treated from next month.
- The NSW Government contributed \$41.5 million to the NCCC and SCR project, and the opening reaffirms the NSW Government’s commitment to delivering better health services for the people of NSW.

### **NEW FIRE TRUCKS ON FRONTLINE THIS FIRE SEASON**

- NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Stuart Ayres have inspected the latest additions to the large, safe, modern and effective RFS fleet.
- More than 100 new Rural Fire Service trucks have been delivered to protect communities across the State this bushfire season, with a further 119 new vehicles to be progressively be rolled out to the frontline this year.

- The NSW Government is ensuring firefighters have access to the best and latest equipment and technology.
- \$30 million has been invested in the State's firefighting vehicle fleet this year, which means we can continue to build new trucks, refurbish older tankers and improve our logistics support. A further \$15.7 million has been provided for RFS brigade stations and fire control centres.

### **10,500 EXTRA WEEKLY PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES**

- The NSW Government has announced 360 new weekly bus services starting across Sydney, taking the total number of extra weekly public transport services introduced by the NSW Government to 10,500 since March 2011.
- Since March 2011, the NSW Government has delivered more than 9,200 extra weekly bus, 1,190 extra train and 220 extra ferry services.
- The latest rollout will benefit bus customers on busy routes in Sydney's Inner West, Eastern Suburbs, North Shore and Northern Beaches.
- To find out more about extra services and timetable information, customers can visit [transportnsw.info](http://transportnsw.info) or view real time apps available from the App Store and Google Play.

### **PREFERRED BIDDER ANNOUNCED FOR CBD AND SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL**

- Customers have had a huge win with Sydney's new CBD and South East Light Rail project to have 50 per cent more capacity than the 9,000 passengers per hour previously planned.
- The Connecting Sydney consortium, consisting of Transdev Sydney, Alstom Transport Australia, Acciona Infrastructure Australia and Capella Capital, has been announced as the preferred bidder to deliver and operate the project.
- The preferred bidder's proposal offers an innovative, world class solution that will deliver a huge win for public transport customers, with reduced crowding on the light rail service and more capacity to cater for future demand.
- Connecting Sydney has entered a bid with an earlier end date than expected for construction along George Street and a reduced impact on the community during construction.
- For more information on the project: <http://www.sydneylightrail.transport.nsw.gov.au/>

### **THE \$91 MILLION DUBBO HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT**

- The \$91.3 million Dubbo Hospital redevelopment is taking shape with the foundations of the new facility rising from the ground.
- The much-needed redevelopment of Dubbo Hospital was a pre-election commitment made by the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government, and is progressing well with rooms starting to come together inside the new clinical services building.

- More than 650 tonnes of steel reinforcement is being used to construct the new building - equal to the maximum take-off weight of an Airbus A380, the world's largest passenger plane.
- Once complete, it will house state-of-the-art digital operating theatres, an inpatient ward, maternity unit and day surgery.

## **NSW NUMBER ONE FOR EMERGENCY PATIENT CARE**

- The NSW public health system is now ranked number one in the nation when it comes to delivering timely, quality emergency care for patients.
- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Australian Hospital Statistics 2013-14: Emergency Department Care Report shows NSW hospitals are leading the way, and giving patients the best emergency care in the nation.
- NSW provides the highest volume of emergency care of all States, with 2,646,415 or about 37 per cent of emergency attendances recorded in 2013-14. NSW public hospitals are treating more than a third of the country's emergency patients.
- The vast majority (81 per cent) of these emergency department patients in NSW are seen on-time, with NSW hospitals recording the best performance in Australia and soaring above the national average of 75 per cent.

## **SERVICE NSW HURSTVILLE: ONE STOP SHOP OFFICIALLY OPENED**

- The latest Service NSW one stop shop officially opened at Hurstville - delivering on the NSW Government's commitment to improve services to NSW residents and businesses.
- The Service Centre at Hurstville joins a list of 20 centres opened in just over a year. By July next year, there will be 36 sites open across the State, with more to come.
- Service NSW offers customers access to more than 800 government transactions including driver licence applications and renewals, vehicle registrations, Seniors Card applications, owner builder permits, housing payments and more.
- Since the launch in July 2013, more than six million customers have been served through the Service NSW digital service at [www.service.nsw.gov.au](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au), 24/7 phone service and Service Centres.

## **CRACKING DOWN ON FIREBUGS**

- Tough new penalties against firebugs have come into force ahead of what is predicted to be a tough bushfire season.
- Those who recklessly and deliberately ignore Total Fire Ban warnings will now face a fine of up to \$132,000 and/or seven years in jail.
- Minister for Police and Emergency Services Stuart Ayres said there were still a lot of people deliberately ignoring fire warnings, with potentially devastating consequences for those around them.

- The new laws also mean those who throw cigarettes or matches from vehicles while a ban is in place will be held accountable for their actions, rather than simply the registered driver of the vehicle.

## **VIDEO EVIDENCE TO BE USED IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES**

- Domestic violence victims will be allowed to give evidence in court via a pre-recorded video statement under changes introduced to parliament this week.
- Changes to the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 have been announced that will enable, with a victim's consent, a recording to be taken at the scene of a domestic violence incident, or shortly afterwards.
- Video-recorded statements could reduce the possibility of the perpetrator coercing a victim into withdrawing or changing their original version of events.
- Such statements could also reduce the risk of victims being re-traumatised by the court process, which means prosecutions often fail due to a lack of evidence from a victim.

## **NEW ERA FOR 'THE SAN'**

- The \$200 million redevelopment of the Sydney Adventist Hospital at Wahroonga has officially been opened.
- The LW Clark Tower, which is the centrepiece of the redevelopment, gives 'the San' a capacity of over 550 beds, up to 24 operating theatres and a purpose-built, integrated cancer centre.
- The largest private, not-for-profit hospital in NSW, 'The San' works closely with public hospitals including Hornsby, Westmead, Gosford and Royal North Shore.
- The NSW Government contributed \$10 million to building a new Clinical Education Centre at 'the San', which opened in November 2013.

## **NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST RULE-BREAKING HOSTELS**

- The NSW Government is introducing new laws that mean basic utilities could be denied to backpacker hostels that break the rules.
- NSW Minister for Planning Pru Goward said giving the Land and Environment Court the power to cut off gas, electricity and water to hostels that are illegal or break their consent conditions would have an immediate effect on a hostel's business, and so increase compliance.
- She said that, while the vast majority of backpacker hostels are run professionally, some operate dangerously below standards, risking the lives of those who stay at them.
- The new laws will also give local councils additional powers to regulate hostels and boarding houses.

## **IMPROVING WATER REFORM OUTCOMES IN NSW**

- The Federal and NSW Governments have announced a \$350 million package of new irrigation efficiency projects across NSW.
- The Commonwealth will contribute an extra \$125 million of funding to the revised package, bringing total Federal funding for NSW to nearly \$1.5 billion.
- The new funding contributed by the Federal Government is helping to deliver our promise to deliver the Basin Plan in full and on time.
- The funding will support a viable irrigation industry and sustainable food production for strong regional communities across the Murray-Darling Basin, with benefits to flow on to local businesses during construction and beyond.

## **CATE BLANCHETT AND ROBERT REDFORD TO FILM 'TRUTH' IN SYDNEY**

- Academy Award-winners Cate Blanchett and Robert Redford (*All is Lost*) are set to make their new film, *Truth*, in Sydney, over eight weeks this spring.
- In addition to filming, much of the post-production work will also be completed in NSW. The NSW Government helped secure the production through NSW Trade & Investment's State Investment Attraction Scheme.
- *Truth* is expected to inject more than \$11 million in direct production expenditure into the NSW economy, and create 208 jobs in front of, and behind the camera.
- Productions of this calibre highlight NSW's capacity for innovation and the strength of our digital and creative economies, and have on-going benefits to other industries, such as tourism.

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