

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 29 August 2014

TRANSFORMING PARRAMATTA NORTH

- The historic heart of Parramatta North has been announced as the focus of a major urban transformation project.
- Parramatta North has been declared a State Significant Site, spanning 146 hectares of government-owned land on the banks of the Parramatta River.
- This urban renewal project will facilitate the preservation of the precinct's heritage sites, while fast-tracking the delivery of thousands of new homes and jobs, providing a major economic boost for Western Sydney.
- Heritage locations and assets include Australia's first farm and first water mill, the Parramatta Female Factory, and the Old Kings School.

PREMIER TOURS DROUGHT-AFFECTED NORTH WEST

- NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson this week toured the State's North West to witness the conditions being faced by drought-affected farmers.
- Mr Baird and Ms Hodgkinson were hosted by NSW Farmers on their visit to Weilmoringle near the NSW-Queensland border, where they were joined by Member for Barwon and Minister for Western NSW Kevin Humphries.
- Despite recent rain over some parts of NSW, some areas in the North West are experiencing the driest 12-month period in 200 years of rainfall records.
- The NSW Government is working to ensure farmers are supported to get through the worst, while encouraging them to make changes to be better prepared to respond to similar conditions in the future.
- For information about drought assistance measures currently available in NSW, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/drought/support.

FIRST PROPERTIES SOLD IN MILLERS POINT

- The first government-owned property at Millers Point was sold at auction this week for \$1.911 million, with the proceeds to help fund social housing across NSW.
- A second government-owned property, a five-bedroom heritage protected townhouse with extensive views of Sydney Harbour, was also sold at auction this week for \$2.56 million.

- The auctions are an historic first step in a process that will help make the social housing system more sustainable. The proceeds of every sale will go straight back into providing more properties and better maintenance.
- The properties are being marketed by private agents on behalf of the NSW Government.

\$10 MILLION SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL CAR PARK OPENS

- A \$10 million multi-storey car park at Sutherland Hospital is now open - another demonstration of the NSW Government's commitment to improving access to the State's busiest hospitals.
- The four-storey car park will provide about 300 additional places for staff and the public, taking the number of spaces on the Sutherland Hospital campus to more than 1,000.
- Eliminating the frustration of finding a parking space can help relieve the stress already associated with a hospital visit.
- The NSW Government has committed to, or delivered, more than \$130 million in hospital car park projects across NSW in our first four-year term, providing well over 4,000 extra car spaces.

IMPROVED LAND ACCESS ARBITRATION

- The Government has revised the framework for arbitration between industry and landholders over access to land for mineral, coal and petroleum exploration.
- Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts said the new rules would make the arbitration process fairer, more efficient and more transparent.
- Under the new rules – which implement the recommendations in a report by Bret Walker SC – explorers will bear all costs associated with arbitration, set and capped by an independent expert.
- Further information is available at the Division of resource and Energy's website: www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au

NEW VISION FOR SYDNEY HARBOUR

- The NSW Government will develop a new vision for Sydney Harbour with the help of a new committee, which is being established to coordinate input from stakeholders.
- The committee will have over-arching responsibility for developing a vision for the foreshore, while bringing together all relevant agencies and entities.
- It will work with the community and stakeholders to develop a strategic vision for the foreshore, including precincts such as The Rocks, Circular Quay, Barangaroo and Millers Point.
- The new high level Committee will be chaired by respected former public servant Les Wielinga, who will report back to the NSW Government with his recommendations for the future of SHFA in 2015.

NEW RECRUITS JOIN FIREFIGHTING RANKS

- After a long selection process and a gruelling 13 week course, 24 recruit firefighters have been officially welcomed into the ranks of Fire & Rescue NSW.
- The recruits have been trained in firefighting, road crash rescue, high-angle rescue, community risk management, fire science and hazardous materials response.
- They were selected from thousands of men and women who applied for firefighting positions last year.
- It is essential communities throughout NSW are served by a modern and dynamic firefighting workforce that reflects the diversity, culture and skills of society.

WESTMEAD CHILDREN'S MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE EXPANSION COMPLETE

- A new seven-storey tower at the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) at Westmead has been officially opened this week, cementing its place as a world leader in unlocking the secrets of childhood disease.
- The NSW Government invested \$20 million into this expansion, which has doubled the CMRI's research capability by adding lab space for an extra 120 scientists.
- This major boost to CMRI's laboratory capacity will allow some of the State's brightest minds to push the boundaries of medical and biological research further than ever before, bringing us closer to prevention, treatment and cures for some of the most devastating childhood diseases.
- This state-of-the-art building will also allow NSW to attract and retain researchers of the highest calibre from around the nation and internationally.

CAROLINE CHISOLM SCHOOL UPGRADE COMPLETE

- New facilities were unveiled this week at Caroline Chisolm School at Padstow, which caters for students with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities.
- The \$5.1 million upgrade includes five new classrooms and a new library.
- Education Minister Adrian Piccoli said Caroline Chisolm is one of 19 Schools for Specific Purposes that are being upgraded by the NSW Government using \$94 million of residual Building the Education Revolution funding.
- The upgrade at Caroline Chisolm also includes a bike track, climbing equipment and soft play areas that will assist students in developing their motor skills.

TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION FOR BULL BARS

- Bull bars on light vehicles, within a reasonable tolerance of the requirements, will be given a two-year period of exemption from the vehicle registration regulations applying to bull bars in NSW.
- Minister for Roads and Freight Duncan Gay will issue a Ministerial Order to address the issue of non-compliant bull bars currently subject to a compliance campaign.

- The exemption will give vehicle owners who have inadvertently fitted a non-compliant bull bar to their vehicle time to have their bull bar inspected by Roads and Maritime Services.
- Owners will be allowed to drive with their bull bar fitted during the exemption period. However, bull bars that grossly exceed Australian Standards will not be exempt.

NEW PROJECTS TO PROTECT OUR HERITAGE

- Heritage projects across the State have been awarded almost \$1.5 million under the NSW Heritage Grants program.
- The funding will be shared through 181 new projects, including \$17,000 for Parramatta, which will protect and preserve historic places for future generations.
- The program is designed to provide direct financial assistance to private owners, councils and community-based organisations to conserve and revitalise places of heritage significance.
- A full list of projects funded under the 2014/15 NSW Heritage Grants program can be found at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/funding/

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