

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 11 MARCH 2016

FUTURE TRANSPORT POSSIBILITIES FOR BANKSTOWN TO LIVERPOOL

- Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance has announced an investigation into improving transport connections between Bankstown and Liverpool, including a possible extension of the New Sydney Metro.
- This potential extension would support growth in Sydney's south west by connecting suburbs, businesses, jobs and services as well as improving access between the south west and Sydney's CBD.
- The first stage of Sydney Metro in the north west will open in 2019, the city and south west is due to open in 2024 – the NSW Government is on the front foot and planning for future transport possibilities down the track.
- The community and other local stakeholders will be able to have their say for six weeks from 11 March to 22 April 2016.

NSW CTP GREEN SLIP SCHEME UNDER REVIEW

- Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation Victor Dominello has announced a major review of the NSW CTP Green Slip Scheme aimed at creating a fairer and a more affordable system for road users.
- The current scheme, in operation since 1999, is now the least affordable in the country with premiums increasing by 70% since 2008.
- The NSW Government has published an options paper to facilitate public consultations, with the review focusing on four key objectives:
 - Increasing the proportion of benefits provided to the most seriously injured road users;
 - Reducing the time it takes to resolve a claim;

- Reducing opportunities for claims fraud and exaggeration; and
- Reducing the cost of green slip premiums.
- The options paper and insurer profit review are available at www.sira.nsw.gov.au/CTP-reforms. Public consultation closes on 22 April 2016 with a response from Government due in the second half of 2016.

FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE ANNOUNCEMENT

- The NSW Government has announced a plan to achieve greater equality in the NSW government sector workforce, propel more women into senior positions and attract a higher quality of workforce.
- The Government has committed to:
 - having 100% of government sector jobs flexible by 2019 on the basis of “if not then why not”;
 - Training senior public servants to think flexibly; and
 - Job share register – online database to help
- Despite women accounting for 64% of the workforce, we only have 36% of women in senior leadership roles – it is a Premier’s Priority to increase the proportion of women in senior leadership roles to 50% in the government sector in the next 10 years.

REVIEW OF CTP INSURANCE FOR POINT TO POINT TRANSPORT VEHICLES ANNOUNCED

- The NSW Government has announced a review of the NSW CTP Scheme in the point to point transport market to reflect the changing dynamics of the sector.
- This review will clarify the CTP price and regulatory disparities that currently exist between taxis, hire cars and ride-share services, and offers six options for reform that are outlined in an options paper that will facilitate public consultation.
- As part of landmark reforms announced in December 2015, the NSW Government repealed more than 50 taxi and hire car regulations which are expected to generate more than \$30 million in benefits for the industry.
- The options paper is available at www.sira.nsw.gov.au with public consultation closing on 8 April 2016.

SAFE AND VIBRANT SYDNEY NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY ROUNDTABLES

- Community and industry groups and government agencies have been invited to attend a series of roundtable discussions within the next three months to develop plans for a safe and vibrant night-time Sydney.
- The outcomes of the roundtables will be considered as part of former High Court Justice Ian Callinan's review into the state's liquor laws, including 1:30am lockouts and 3am last drinks in Kings Cross and the CBD.
- Invited participants have been drawn from a wide range of interested stakeholders who can provide specialist input into fostering a safe and vibrant night-time economy.
- Roundtable outcomes will also be published on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website at www.liquorandgaming.justice.nsw.gov.au.

NEW LAWS PROTECT WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES FROM ILLEGAL PROTESTS

- New legislation will deliver on the NSW Government's commitment to ensure that the right to peaceful protest is balanced with the need to ensure public safety, the safety of workers, the protection of communities and lawful business activity.
- These new reforms will enable Police to take a more proactive approach to managing and prosecuting illegal protests.

CONNECTING THE WEST – 'PRESSING GO' ON PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL

- Up to 500 experts have gathered in Western Sydney to be briefed on the Parramatta Light Rail project – a project that will reshape Sydney's second CBD by connecting Parramatta, Westmead, Olympic Park, Carlingford, Camellia and Strathfield with about 20 kilometres of light rail.
- The industry briefing brought together a range of prospective companies and planners to share details of how they can contribute to this major project.

Consultation on the exact route will take place later in 2016 and will involve public input with a view to construction beginning in late 2018 or early 2019.

RAISING THE ROOF AT ICC SYDNEY: NEW EXHIBITION CENTRE TAKES SHAPE

- The roof has been installed at the new exhibition centre at Darling Harbour, marking a significant milestone towards the delivery of Sydney's new convention, exhibition and entertainment precinct.
- The ICC Sydney is the centrepiece of the NSW Government's \$3.4 billion revitalisation of Darling Harbour which includes:
 - three interconnected and flexible buildings for world-class conventions, exhibitions and events;
 - vibrant public spaces centred around the expanded green space of Tumbalong Park;
 - a 5-star luxury hotel with about 600 rooms and Darling Square – a new city neighbourhood with offices, residential, retail and restaurants.
- The ICC Sydney and is on track for completion by the end of 2016, providing a boost to the NSW economy of at least \$200 million every year.

NEW BILL FAST TRACKS ILLEGAL DRUGS DESTRUCTION

- The NSW Government has introduced changes to the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* to give police the power to destroy illegal drugs 28 days after the accused gets a copy of the forensic drug testing results.
- Currently hundreds of kilos of toxic drugs such as heroin, cocaine and ice are kept in secure police facilities as evidence until a trial and appeals process is exhausted – these changes will simplify the way evidence about the drug exhibits is presented to the court with police able to provide an evidentiary certificate to prove drugs tested by forensics were those seized during the police operation.
- These changes will allow police to get on with the job of cracking down on manufacturers, suppliers and dealers instead of hours sitting in court and confirming where the drugs came from.
- The reforms come on top of the NSW Government's new campaign to stamp out ice and the introduction of harsher penalties for its dealers.

SKYTRAIN RISES OVER MEMORIAL AVENUE FOR SYDNEY METRO NORTHWEST

- The section of the Sydney Metro Northwest skytrain to be built over a major road has been successfully completed, marking another important milestone for Australia's biggest public transport project.
- In a precision operation carried out over five nights, 12 segments of the skytrain were lifted over Memorial Avenue at Kellyville.
- Each of the segments weighs about 84 tonnes and were lifted 11m into the air by the massive horizontal crane sitting above Memorial Avenue.
- Once the skytrain is built, work will start on the elevated railway stations at Kellyville and Rouse Hill - two of the eight new metro stations.

2016 NSW WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED

- Premier Mike Baird has announced Jennifer Armstrong as the winner of the 2016 Premier's Woman of the Year Award.
- Other winners in the individual categories are:
 - NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year – Dana Clarke;
 - A.H Beard Community Hero Award – Fadia Ghossayn;
 - Harvey Norman Young Woman of the Year – Dr Dharmica Mistry;
 - Rex Airlines Regional Woman of the Year Awards – Jodie McRae.
- Now in their fifth year, the NSW Women of the Year Awards received a record 331 nominations and over 12,900 people cast their vote for their NSW Woman of the Year in 2016.