

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 12 FEBRUARY 2016**

### **PUBLIC TO HAVE ITS SAY IN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF LOCKOUTS, LAST DRINKS AND 10PM LIQUOR LAWS**

- The public is being invited to have its say in an independent, evidence-based review of the 1:30am lockouts, 3am last drinks and 10pm takeaway liquor laws that will be led by a former High Court judge.
- The Hon. Ian Callinan AC QC will lead the review which will examine the impacts on alcohol-related violence and other harms and impacts on business, patrons and community amenity.
- The final report is expected to be provided in August 2016 with a response from the NSW Government to follow later in the year.
- Submissions can be made online or by mail and further details of the review and consultation process are available at <http://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/liquorlawreview>

### **WESTCONNEX M4 EAST PROJECT APPROVED**

- Planning Minister Rob Stokes has announced approval of the M4 East Motorway as part of the first stage of Westconnex – Australia’s largest road project.
- A number of conditions to the approval have been formulated in response to issues raised by the community including:
  - The provision of at least two dedicated public transport lanes on Parramatta Road;
  - Strict air quality conditions for the tunnels and ventilation facilities that require compulsory reporting and compliance monitoring;
  - A requirement for an increase in open space for the local community;

- Maintaining the character for local areas with more trees and ensuring that more built heritage is saved or adaptively reused.
- The road will help ease congestion for commuters and lead to improved public transport in the corridor.
- For more information visit <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>

## **FINAL MEGA BORER RESURFACES ON SYDNEY METRO NORTH WEST**

- Tunnel Boring Machine 2 'Florence', the last Sydney Metro Northwest tunnel boring machine, has finished its journey at Cherrybrook after digging 9km from Bella Vista marking the end of tunnelling for Australia's longest railway tunnels.
- Florence was one of four mega borers building the twin 15km tunnels from Bella Vista to Epping which were completed in 16 months.
- Cherrybrook is one of eight new metro stations on Sydney Metro Northwest, the first stage of Sydney Metro – Australia's biggest public transport project.
- New metro trains start in the first half of 2019 with a service every four minutes in the peak.

## **NEW BUSINESS HUBS FOR WESTERN SYDNEY**

- Planning Minister Rob Stokes has announced a new business hub will be built in West Hoxton which will create around 200 full time jobs during construction and house 670 jobs once completed.
- Work has also begun at Wetherill Park on Australia's first industrial precinct with a six star sustainability rating, the Horsley Drive Business Park, which will create 100 construction jobs and house 600 jobs.
- The NSW Government is ensuring that the community reaps the benefit of growth in Sydney – more jobs, shorter commuting times, better infrastructure, improved public facilities and more open spaces.

## **\$32 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR MINING COMMUNITIES**

- Regional and rural communities affected by mining can now apply for a share of \$32 million made available by the NSW Government through the Resources for Regions program.

- Applications to fund economic and social infrastructure projects are now open to communities in local government areas outside the Sydney Metropolitan area that have been affected by mining.
- Since 2012, over \$207 million has been allocated to mining affected communities throughout the state and the NSW Government will continue to support economic growth and productivity in the regions.
- Expressions of interest close on 7 April 2016 – for more details about the Resources for Regions Program visit [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions)

### **LOCATION LOCKED IN FOR WATERLOO METRO STATION**

- The new train station at Waterloo – the 31<sup>st</sup> train station on Sydney Metro - will be built underground between Botany Road and Cope Street, south of Raglan Street.
- Stage 2 of Sydney Metro – Sydney Metro City and Southwest – includes new twin rail tunnels from Chatswood to Sydenham and proposed new stations at Crows Nest, Victoria Cross (North Sydney), Barangaroo, Martin Place, Pitt Street, Central and Waterloo.
- Sydney Metro will deliver ‘turn up and go’ rail services with more than 65 kilometres of new metro rail on a standalone line.
- The Environmental Impact Statement will be released later this year and discussions are now underway with affected landowners and tenants.

### **NSW GOVERNMENT BOOSTS FUNDING FOR MALE SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

- NSW Attorney General Gabrielle Upton has announced Australia’s only dedicated national support and advocacy charity for adult male survivors of child sexual abuse has received a \$517,000 funding boost from the NSW Government.
- Survivors & Mates Support Network (SAMSN) delivers workshops for men and their families with health professionals at locations across NSW and also connects survivors with specialist psychologists and social workers and offers practical assistance during recovery.

- The NSW Government supports survivors of child sexual abuse and their families and is firmly committed to addressing their needs.

### **NEW OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE SERVICES OPENING ACROSS NSW**

- Thousands of NSW families have access to before and after school services following the completion of the first phase of the \$20 million Out of School Hours Care grant program, with the second phase of grants now open
- Applications will be accepted from schools for new services, schools wanting to expand existing OSHC services and local councils in partnership with schools – enabling more school communities to meet growing demand.
- Grants have been increased to \$30,000 to help with the cost of establishing or extending existing OSHC services and the funds can be used for fit-outs, tendering or equipment costs by schools with new or existing OSHC services.
- Over 3,000 places across NSW have been created as a result of this grant program and the NSW Government aims to reach 45,000 places over the next three years.

### **‘NSW FIRST’ TOURISM WORKSHOP LAUNCHED**

- The 2016 ‘NSW First’ Workshop program has been launched, providing tourism operators in Sydney and Regional NSW with product development advice and industry resources to help grow tourism across the State.
- The program will include five new workshop categories, provide new content through Market Ready and Export Ready Streams, reach more destinations, include web online webinars and extend across the calendar year.
- To view the NSW First Workshop program for 2016 and to register go to: [www.destinationnsw.com.au/workshops](http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/workshops)

### **VOTE NOW FOR THE 2016 NSW WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

- Minister for Women Pru Goward has announced the finalists for the 2016 NSW Women of the Year Awards and is encouraging people to head online to vote.
- The 12 finalists have made immense contributions to the community – volunteers, founders of not-for-profit organisations, medical researchers and

community leaders - and represent the very best examples of women in our state.

- Online voting ends Sunday 28 February 2016 and the winners will be announced at a ceremony in NSW Parliament House on 9 March.

### **OPEN ADOPTION ROADSHOW ACROSS NSW**

- Open Adoption road shows will be held across the state to give frontline child protection caseworkers and managers the knowledge, skills and confidence to consider Open Adoption.
- Under the NSW Government's Safe Home for Life reforms, Open Adoption is considered as an option if children cannot be restored to their biological parents and is not considered suitable for Aboriginal children. Children can remain in contact with their birth family while in the safety and permanency of an adoptive family.
- The NSW Government is committed to helping children into safe and permanent homes.