

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 13 NOVEMBER 2015

WIN FOR WESTERN SYDNEY AND REGIONAL NSW AS BOXING DAY TRADING LAWS PASS

- The NSW Government has fulfilled another election promise by amending retailing trading laws to allow all shops across NSW to open on Boxing Day.
- These changes will create a level playing field for retailers, support jobs and will mean local dollars will be spent in local shops.
- NSW Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations Gladys Berejiklian has stressed that, under the legislation, no employee can be forced to work and no shop can be forced to open on Boxing Day.
- The NSW Government is providing more choice for retailers, employees and consumers.

LIVE BETTING ADVERTISING BANNED IN NSW

- The NSW Government will ban betting on live-odds advertising during sports matches to reduce the harm of problem gambling and ensure the integrity of sports betting.
- NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice Troy Grant said NSW is pioneering this new measure to ensure our regulatory environment does everything it can to promote a culture of responsible gambling.
- Other measures to be introduced this year include:
 - a new offence with a penalty of up to \$11,000 for a corporation and \$5,500 or 12 months imprisonment for an individual if an unlicensed betting service provider offers bets on a NSW sporting event;

- expansion of a current ban on advertising inducements to gamble so that it captures all types of inducements offered to NSW residents not just any 'credit, voucher or reward' with a maximum penalty of up to \$5,500.

NEW B-LINE TO TRANSFORM NORTHERN BEACHES BUS TRAVEL

- NSW Premier Mike Baird and NSW Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance have unveiled the future of bus travel on the Northern Beaches with a fleet of double decker buses to run at least every 10 minutes during the day from new bus stops between Mona Vale and the CBD.
- The 27 km 'B-Line' will be serviced by new double decker buses and customers will be encouraged to park and ride with about 900 new commuter parking spaces across the line.
- These new services will transform transport on the Northern Beaches and will be up and running by late 2017.

2016 WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- The NSW Government is calling for nominations for the 2016 Women of the Year Awards, recognising inspirational women who have made an outstanding contribution to NSW.
- There are five state-wide awards which include:
 - The Premier's Award;
 - The A.H Beard Community Hero Award;
 - Harvey Norman's Young Woman of the Year Award;
 - Rex's Regional Woman of the Year Award; and
 - NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award.
- Nominations can be made at www.women.nsw.gov.au and close on 13 January 2016. The award recipients will be announced at a reception hosted by the NSW Premier on Wednesday, 9 March 2016 at Parliament House.

ROLLOUT OF OBSERVATION TOWERS ON STATE BEACHES

- NSW Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair has announced funding for the installation of observation towers and emergency evacuation alarms to complement the recently announced \$16 million Shark Management Strategy.

- More than \$13,000 will be funded for observation towers at Manly Beach, One Mile Beach at Port Stephens, Warilla Beach at Shellharbour and Lighthouse Beach, Ballina.
- The towers will provide a clearer line of vision for surf life savers to spot sharks and is also useful for spotting people in distress and monitoring beach conditions.
- In addition, Marine Rescue has been allocated \$3,000 to purchase stabilising binoculars, Surf Life Saving NSW will receive more than \$8,000 for emergency evacuation alarms and approximately \$5,000 will go to Kiama Council for aerial inflatable remote shark human interaction prevention.

\$45.5 MILLION PRESCHOOL FUNDING BOOST

- NSW Minister for Early Childhood Education Leslie Williams has announced new initiatives worth \$45.5 million to increase the number of four and five year old children enrolled in quality preschool programs in the year before school.
- Additional funding in 2016 will include:
 - \$13 million over four years to increase base funding rates by 2.5%;
 - \$11 million for bonus payments up to 15% of a service's base rate to reward centres that enrol more four and five year olds for 15 hours per week;
 - \$4 million over two years to provide business advice and support to preschools;
 - \$12 million over four years for a 'Preschools for Sustainable Communities' program, to help maintain viability for community preschools in rural and remote areas; and
 - \$5.5 million over three years to improve the collection of data from services.
- The NSW Government is focused on increasing enrolments from low-income and Aboriginal families and ensuring that cost or location are not barriers to participation in our local communities.

REBATE OPEN TO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES TO INCREASE RECYCLING

- NSW Environment Minister Mark Speakman has announced rebates of up to \$50,000 are available for small and medium sized enterprises to purchase small-scale recycling equipment.
- To be eligible for a rebate, an eligible enterprise must undertake a free waste assessment by an approved Environment Protection Authority assessor and develop a waste-reduction action plan. If the assessment concludes that the recycling equipment will divert more waste from landfill, the enterprise can apply for a rebate to cover half its capital costs of acquiring the small scale recycling equipment.
- The Bin Trim rebate will encourage businesses to become more cost effective and environmentally aware.

\$14 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR MURRAY-DARLING GROWTH

- The NSW and Commonwealth Governments have announced the latest round of the Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Programme, with over \$14 million available to communities in NSW most impacted by the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.
- In this round of funding \$14 million will be available across two funding streams to projects with the potential to drive significant job outcomes or support small businesses, small capability building projects and economic development projects that support economic diversification.
- NSW Minister for Regional Development John Barilaro and the NSW Government is investing in regional projects that will create new jobs and increase the economic output of local economies.

COMMUNITY FOCUSED LIQUOR REFORMS

- The NSW Government has passed new legislation which will allow for the creation of a new regulator called Liquor and Gaming NSW and will also deliver a much need restructure to the Office of Liquor and Gaming and the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (ILGA).
- This new regulator will be given a 20 per cent boost in compliance activity, have an increased focus on enforcement activity and will take charge of low-risk licence applications.

- The ILGA will remain independent and refocus on high-risk licence applications such as new bottle shops and nightclubs as well as casino licencing and gaming machine entitlement decisions.
- The new legislation also provides the community with a new avenue of appeal against licence decisions.

IPTAAS FUNDING BOOST FOR STAYS IN NOT-FOR-PROFIT ACCOMODATION

- NSW Health Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health Sarah Mitchell have announced that from 1 February 2016 higher Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) rebates will be available for patients staying in not-for-profit accommodation.
- An investment of \$2.7 million per year will increase the existing subsidies by more than 40%.
- IPTAAS assists patients in a number of ways, primarily through paying accommodation and fuel subsidies to patients to help cover their costs.
- The NSW Government is committed to ensuring patients in rural and regional areas are able to access the care they need