

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 15 APRIL 2016**

### **REBUILDING SYDNEY'S STADIUMS**

- The NSW Government will fast track the transformation of ANZ Stadium into a world-class rectangular venue.
- Along with the construction of a new Parramatta Stadium, which has already been approved and will begin later this year, and the refurbishment of Allianz Stadium (which will begin during the next term of Government), the \$1.6 billion package represents the biggest investment in sport, entertainment and the visitor economy in NSW since the Sydney 2000 Olympics.
- As part of the infrastructure boost, Premier Mike Baird also announced a new \$40 million NRL Centres of Excellence fund under which NSW NRL clubs will be able to refresh their local facilities on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
- The transformation of ANZ Stadium and Allianz Stadium will be managed and delivered by Infrastructure NSW, the Government's infrastructure advisory and implementation body.

### **ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR NEW METRO TUNNELS UNDER SYDNEY HARBOUR AND CBD**

- The NSW Government has today announced the start of the tender process to build the new twin metro railway tunnels under Sydney Harbour and through the CBD for Stage 2 of Sydney Metro – Australia's biggest public transport project.
- Following an intense process of engagement and consultation with industry over the past 6 months, major procurement for Stage 2 of Sydney Metro is now moving forward with the tunnel and station excavation works.

- The first of five tunnel boring machines will be in the ground before the end of 2018 to deliver new twin railway tunnels from Chatswood to Sydenham, with the tunnelling contract expected to be awarded mid next year.
- The NSW Government is getting on with the job of opening Sydney Metro City and Southwest by 2024.

### **NEW HOME CHOSEN FOR THE POWERHOUSE MUSEUM**

- The NSW Government has chosen a site on the banks of the Parramatta River as the preferred location for Parramatta's new Powerhouse Museum.
- With the museum's relocation to Parramatta means that for the first time one of the state's five major cultural institutions will be in Western Sydney.
- The NSW Government selected the riverbank site (the old David Jones car park) over another site at Parramatta Golf Course due to its close proximity to public transport and easy accessibility for pedestrians.
- Detailed planning work can now get underway to make the vision of the Powerhouse as a beacon of art and culture in Western Sydney a reality.

### **\$17 BILLION IN RECORD BUILDING ACTIVITY IN NSW**

- Recent ABS figures reveal that more than 65,000 were under construction by the end of 2015 – the largest number since records began in 1969.
- The value of residential building activity in NSW reached an all-time high of more than \$17 billion last year.
- The NSW Government is committed to renewing urban areas and releasing further blocks of land and are delivering a record investment in infrastructure to sustain this level of growth.

### **NSW JOBS MARKET CONTINUES TO BE THE STRONGEST**

- NSW continues to have the strongest employment market among the states, recording the lowest unemployment rate for the tenth consecutive month and adding more than 126,000 jobs over the last year according to recent ABS data.

- Over the year to March, NSW added more than double the number of jobs than the next strongest state and create more jobs than the rest of Australia combined.
- Since the Liberals & Nationals Government came to power in 2011, 297,000 jobs have been created in NSW accounting for more than 40% of jobs added across the country.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISCLOSURE SCHEME LAUNCHED**

- The NSW Government has delivered on another election commitment by launching the Domestic Disclosure Scheme – a program that will increase the safety of people potentially at risk of domestic violence by giving them the opportunity to find out if their current or former partner has a violent past.
- This Australian first program will ensure people are no longer kept in the dark about a partner's violent past and will give them support to make informed decisions about their relationship.
- The NSW Government has invested \$2.3 million over the two year period of the pilot program for expert domestic and family violence NGO services to provide support to the person at risk regardless of whether a disclosure has been made or not.
- The pilot program has commenced in Sutherland LAC, Oxley LAC, Shoalhaven LAC and St George LAC.

### **LOOSE-FILL ASBESTOS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED**

- The NSW Government has launched a state-wide awareness campaign regarding Fair Trading's voluntary purchase and demolition program currently available to property owners whose homes have been affected by loose-fill asbestos insulation.
- In June 2015 the NSW Government announced a voluntary purchase and demolition program to provide safety, certainty and support for NSW residential property owners whose homes test positive for loose-fill asbestos.
- Home owners potentially affected have until 1 August 2016 to register with a special Fair Trading taskforce that will provide assistance and advice.
- More information is available at [www.loosefillasbestos.nsw.gov.au](http://www.loosefillasbestos.nsw.gov.au) or by calling 13 77 88.

## **PATHWAYS TO SUPPORT YOUNG AND UNEMPLOYED**

- The NSW Government will create vocational education and training pathways (VET) for regions with the highest unemployment rates in NSW.
- The \$8 million Regional VET Pathways initiative supports 15 to 19 year olds who are not in study or work to find pathways into education, training and employment.
- Successful providers will deliver career mentoring and assistance for young people when looking for work experience or transitioning into training and employment including apprenticeships and traineeships.
- Once the Regional VET Pathways program is fully implemented, an estimated 1,000 young people each year should be able to get additional support.

## **SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF AN AGEING POPULATION**

- The NSW Government has conducted a roundtable as part of consultations to renew the NSW Ageing Strategy – a whole of government approach to responding to an ageing population that is based on community input.
- The proposed five key priority areas of the Strategy include:
  - Health and wellbeing;
  - Working and Retirement;
  - Housing choices;
  - Getting around; and
  - Inclusive communities.
- The Strategy is a 'living' document and is now being revised from the ground up based on the feedback from stakeholders and the community.
- The second NSW Ageing Strategy will be released later in 2016. For more information on the first NSW Ageing Strategy visit:  
[http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/strategies/nsw\\_ageing\\_strategy](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/strategies/nsw_ageing_strategy)

## **YOUNG REGIONAL ARTISTS TO SHINE WITH \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Artist regional youth are urged to apply now for the NSW Government's \$10,000 individual scholarship program to foster the next generation of arts professionals.

- The Young Regional Artist Scholarship program is open to 18 to 25 year olds and will fund activities such as mentorships, internships, courses, training, national and international travel and creation of new work across all art forms.
- The program will see 100 scholarships valued at \$10,000 each awarded over four years and 25 scholarships will be awarded in 2016.
- For further information and to apply please visit: [www.arts.nsw.gov.au](http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au)

## **GOGET LAUNCHES CARSHARE VEHICLE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN WORLD FIRST**

- GoGet carshare is planning to revolutionise transport for people with disability with the launch of the world's first fully accessible carsharing vehicle with the support of leading disability non-government organisation, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA).
- The vehicle, an eight seater Kia Carnival, is equipped with a single wheelchair rear entry with hydraulic floor and can accommodate a wide range of wheelchairs.
- Should the pilot program prove successful more accessible vehicles will be rolled out across NSW and eventually across Australia.
- GoGet carshare, which has 80,000 members in Australia and is active in transport research and development, is the first mainstream carshare provider in the world to support and accessible carshare vehicle.