

## **NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 19 FEBRUARY 2016**

### **JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

- The NSW Government will introduce legislation to remove the limitation period for survivors of child abuse who bring civil claims against the alleged perpetrator.
- This change will make it easier for survivors of child abuse to access civil justice regardless of the date of the alleged abuse.
- The NSW Government is committed to removing barriers for those seeking justice and believes that a single national scheme is the best way to ensure consistent, accessible justice for survivors regardless of where the abuse occurred.
- This reform is one part of the NSW Government's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommendations on redress and civil litigation.

### **ICE FORUMS: EDUCATING NSW COMMUNITIES**

- The NSW Government will partner with the Australian Drug Foundation to deliver a series of community education forums to support communities dealing with the harmful impacts of ice.
- The forums will help build and strengthen important community partnerships by bringing together a range of local people including representatives from police, health services, youth services, Family Drug Support and local non-government drug and alcohol services.
- As well as delivering on its election commitment to educate the community, the NSW Government has opened new stimulant treatment services in

hospitals and enhanced NGO-led community treatment services in rural and regional communities.

- The NSW Government is committed to helping local communities understand how best to access information, support and practical resources in their area to tackle the problem of ice.

## **NSW JOBS MARKET STRONGEST IN THE NATION**

- NSW continues to have the strongest jobs market in the nation having recorded the lowest unemployment rate among the states for eight consecutive months.
- Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian has welcomed ABS data that confirms NSW as the consistent performer in the creation of jobs.
- Under the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government, 300,500 jobs have been created since April 2011 – more than 80% higher than the next largest state increase.

## **DESIGN REVEALED FOR CUDGEGONG ROAD METRO STATION**

- Minister for Transport and Infrastructure has unveiled the final design of the new Cudgegong Road Railway Station on the \$8.3 billion Sydney Metro Northwest.
- The first station on the line of the new network, it includes:
  - 1,000 commuter car parking spaces;
  - 6 bus spaces, 15 drop off areas and 9 tax spaces;
  - Parking and storage for 55 bicycles; and
  - Two new streets between Tallawong and Cudgegong Roads.
- The project is Stage 1 of Sydney Metro, with metro rail to be extended under Sydney Harbour, through the CBD and beyond to Bankstown by 2024.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE DECENTRALISATION PLAN ON TRACK**

- Minister for Finance, Services and Property Dominic Perrottet has announced 105 Phillip Street Parramatta as the preferred site to accommodate around 1,800 Department of Education staff that are currently housed in CBD office space.

- The relocation will stimulate business and employment opportunities in Western Sydney, improve value for NSW taxpayers and deliver world-class, fit-for-purpose office space for Department of Education staff.
- Under the 'Decade of Decentralisation' policy, the NSW Government has committed to reducing its CBD office space holdings by at least 100,000 square metres by 2021 and moving those jobs out to metropolitan and regional areas.
- The transfer of Department of Education staff to Parramatta will commence in 2018 and is expected to be completed by 2020.

### **SHARK DETECTION TRIAL OFF SYDNEY**

- Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair has announced that a trial of the 'Clever Buoy' program has been deployed off Bondi Beach.
- The program is a pre-commercial trial of new technology to detect sharks with the buoy identifying large swimming objects – such as sharks – and sending real time information to lifeguards.
- The testing of this sonar technology is a critical component of the NSW Government's \$16 million Shark Management Strategy to reduce the risk of shark attacks on the state's beaches.

### **MOBILE BLACK SPOTS TO BE ELIMINATED IN NSW**

- The NSW Government has delivered on another election commitment and has invested \$24 million in the Mobile Blackspot Program to fix some of the worst mobile phone black spots across NSW.
- 144 new or upgraded mobile base stations will be rolled out in NSW over the next three years and will contribute to more than 14,000 square kilometres of new coverage.
- Regional NSW and outer Sydney residents and businesses will be better connected with work now underway to eliminate up to 795 mobile black spots across the State.

## **COMMUNITY SPORTS GRANTS APPLICATIONS EXTENDED**

- Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres has announced applications for NSW Government grants to help local sports groups across NSW have been extended to the end of February.
- The Local Sport Grant Program will see up to \$50,000 in grants distributed to local sporting clubs and groups in all 93 NSW electorates.
- There are four project types within the Program:
  - Sport club development;
  - Community sport events;
  - Sport access;
  - Facility development and capital equipment.
- Applications close Monday 29 February 2016.