

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 20 NOVEMBER 2015

SYDNEY METRO AND THE CBD: STATIONS CONFIRMED AND FIRST BORER TO ARRIVE IN 2018

- NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance have announced the locations of Sydney’s new world class metro railway stations and that investigations will begin into potentially extending metro rail from Bankstown to Liverpool.
- The first tunnel boring machine will be in the ground before the end of 2018 on Stage 2 of Sydney Metro - a ‘turn up and go’ rail service which will help boost capacity of our rail network by 100,000 people every hour.
- The formal planning process for Sydney Metro City and Southwest project has begun, including:
 - A State Significant Infrastructure Application to be lodged confirming the metro route;
 - New metro stations confirmed for Crows Nest, Victoria Cross (North Sydney), Barangaroo, Martin Place, Pitt Street (near Park Street) and underground at Central;
 - A potential extension of metro rail to Liverpool, which could cut travel times to the CBD by up to 15 minutes and reduce crowding on the existing T1 Western Line and T2 South Line.
- Construction of Stage 1 of Sydney Metro – the \$8.3 billion Sydney Metro Northwest – is more than half complete and due to start passenger services in 2019 with Sydney Metro City & Southwest expected to open in 2024.

NSW ECONOMY 'TRUMPING' ALL OTHER STATES

- ANZ's Stateometer report has revealed the NSW economy is the strongest in the nation, trumping all other states and territories.
- According to ANZ, annual growth in economic activity in NSW increased to its highest level over the September quarter, with indicators for household consumption, business activity and the labour market all positive.
- The NSW Government is committed to working hard to build much needed infrastructure, supporting jobs growth and keeping the economy moving.

BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS IN WESTERN SYDNEY

- NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli and Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair have announced a new \$165 million investment that will see agricultural education supported across South Western Sydney.
- This investment will deliver:
 - More than \$35 million for a new Hurlstone Agricultural High School at the Western Sydney University Hawkesbury campus;
 - More than \$30 million for a new education precinct in Glenfield, including a major upgrade of the existing high school and three schools for specific purposes;
 - More than \$100 million for over 180 additional classrooms in South Western Sydney; and
 - Land for a new primary school reserved in Glenfield.
- The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is supporting the future of agriculture in NSW.

\$100 MILLION FOR NEW SOCIAL HOUSING IN NSW

- NSW Minister for Social Housing Brad Hazzard has announced that more than \$100 million raised from the Millers Point heritage social housing sales will be used to directly fund hundreds of new homes to help vulnerable people waiting for social housing.
- The NSW Government is freeing up assets in Millers Point which will allow for four to five new residences built for every heritage house sold.
- Nearly 75% of the social housing tenants in Millers Point have successfully relocated, many moving to inner city suburbs including Glebe and Pyrmont.

- The NSW Government is determined to assist our community's most vulnerable by providing housing to as many people waiting for social housing as possible.

DUBBO A WINNER IN NSW JOB BOOST

- More than 20 new staff will be employed in Dubbo to help deliver key regional road projects including the Newell Highway and Bridges for the Bush program.
- With over \$16 billion being invested in road upgrades alone over the next five years, the NSW Government is establishing five program office hubs which will ensure projects are delivered on time, within budget and resources are used efficiently.
- The Dubbo project office hub will employ 20 new staff and will boost job opportunities in the local area.
- The NSW Government is delivering more jobs and more infrastructure for our local communities - in 2017 the NSW Government will be delivering more road construction than Victoria, South Australia, ACT and Queensland combined.

NEW PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP STRATEGY COMPLEMENTS GONSKI REFORMS

- NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli has announced a new school leadership strategy, with \$20 million to be invested to boost the salaries of public school principals in more complex schools.
- The largest salary increases – up to \$26,000 – will go to principals leading schools serving students with the most significant educational support needs in recognition of the unique challenges they face.
- The new school leadership strategy:
 - Links principals' salaries to the size and complexity of their school;
 - Improves preparation and support for new principals;
 - Includes training for principals at all levels of experience; and
 - Enhances accountability to help principals improve school performance.

LEGAL AID HELPING THOSE MOST IN NEED

- Legal Aid NSW lawyers helped more than 570 vulnerable people every day with free advice on their legal issues, according to the latest Annual Report figures.
- Legal Aid NSW is the largest legal aid agency in Australia with offices in 22 locations. It provides free legal advice and information, as well as court duty services and representation in civil, criminal and family law to eligible members of the community.
- The NSW Government will continue to support those in need of vital services by boosting funding for Legal Aid NSW by over 5% to more than \$150 million in 2015/2016.

NEW GUN LAWS PASS PARLIAMENT

- The NSW Government has delivered on another election commitment with the passing of new laws that will crack down on those who endanger the community by possessing a gun illegally.
- The new laws:
 - Create a new offence for the possession of a stolen firearm, which will carry a maximum 14 years' imprisonment.;
 - Increase the maximum penalty for defacing or altering any identifying mark on any firearm or for possessing a defaced or altered firearm from five years to 14 years' imprisonment;
 - Apply consistent maximum penalties of 14 years' imprisonment to a range of other offences relating to unauthorised possession, use, supply or acquisition of firearms; and
 - Include a ban on the possession of digital blueprints that enable firearms to be manufactured using 3D printers and milling machines for anyone without a proper licence.

OFF THE PLAN PROTECTIONS SECURED

- NSW Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation Victor Dominello has announced the passing of new laws that will seek to prevent rogue developers from rescinding contracts using the sunset clause to make windfall profits.
- Effective from 2 November 2015, developers must gain the consent of a purchaser before rescinding a contract using a sunset clause. If consent is not given then the developer must apply to the Supreme Court to justify the proposed termination.

- The NSW Government has listened to the community's concerns and has acted swiftly to provide home buyers with greater certainty – no longer will unethical developers be tolerated in this state.

HORTICULTURE GROWING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

- Australia's biggest horticultural business Costa has expanded its tomato operations at Guyra, creating jobs with support from the NSW Government.
- Costa has completed the construction of two new glasshouses that will help the company achieve its long term goal of producing 21 million kilograms of tomatoes per year and is planning to invest up to \$60 million in this expansion and create more than 170 new jobs.
- Costa employs up to 6,000 people during the peak harvest season with more than 2,000 people in NSW alone through its tomato and berry growing season.
- The NSW Government is supporting businesses and jobs growth in our regional areas so more people can get to work.

NSW RACING INDUSTRY TO BENEFIT FROM NEW PARITY LAWS

- The NSW Government has passed new laws that will ensure the \$3.3 billion NSW racing industry will benefit from wagering tax parity with Victoria, providing more funds to invest in making NSW the premier racing state.
- The new laws will lock in a step down to parity, delivering an extra \$235 million to the industry over five years and \$90 million each year after that.
- This significant amount of funding will see significant investment in regional race tracks, apprenticeships and making The Championships the premier racing event in Australia.

NSW LEADS NATION IN TIMELY, QUALITY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CARE

- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) report *Australian Hospital Statistics: Emergency Department Care* has revealed NSW as number one in the nation for delivering timely emergency department care.
- The report shows that in 2014-15 81% of NSW emergency department patients were seen on time within the time specified in the five nationally accepted categories.

- NSW hospitals also recorded the lowest median wait time for patients to commence clinical care in the emergency department (15 minutes) ahead of Victoria (19 minutes).

NSW GOVERNMENT DELIVERS FOR TECH SAVVY SENIORS

- The NSW Government has announced a new telecommunications offer and expanded training opportunities, providing NSW Seniors Card holders with another incentive to get tech savvy.
- Delivering on another election commitment, the NSW Government has partnered with Telstra to offer the Telstra Seniors Starter Bundle so our seniors in the community can access the digital world and stay connected through discounted internet costs.
- This new initiative builds on Telstra's existing partnership with the NSW Government through the Tech Savvy Seniors program which provides access to free and low cost technology training to NSW Seniors across the state.
- This expansion of the Tech Savvy Seniors program will see training course locations increase from 71 to 104 locations and 31 libraries will offer courses in eight languages other than English – delivering training to more than 15,000 seniors a year and provide an extra 3,500 places each year for the next four years.

PICK UP A GOLD OPAL CARD FROM KIOSKS AT MAJOR TRANSPORT HUBS & SHOPPING CENTRES

- NSW Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance has encouraged everyone to make the switch to Opal with paper tickets being phased out on 1 January 2016.
- To help customers get a card, Transport for NSW has set up information kiosks at 40 locations across the public transport network so Adults, Children plus Seniors and Pensioners can now pick up an Opal card.
- Kiosks will be operating at various transport locations between now and 11 December and again in the first week of January 2016.