

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 26 FEBRUARY 2016

MEDICINAL CANNABIS TRIAL FOR CHEMO PATIENTS

- NSW Premier Mike Baird has announced the third medicinal cannabis clinical trial which will involve patients with chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting.
- An oral cannabis-derived capsule will be used in the trial which will commence later this year with patient enrolment expected by mid-2016 once ethics approval is given.
- The trial follows on from recent trials for the terminally ill and children suffering from epilepsy – trials that are well progressed with patients expected to begin using medicinal cannabis products shortly.
- These trials come as part of the NSW Government's \$21 million commitment to support medicinal cannabis reforms.

TRIAL PROMPTS STATEWIDE ROLLOUT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUSPECT TARGETING

- NSW Premier Mike Baird has announced the state-wide rollout of Suspect Target Management Plans (STMP) for recidivist violence offenders.
- As a part of the NSW Government's \$60 million domestic and family violence package, suspect targeting will be rolled out following a successful trial in the St George Local Area Command and will identify high risk domestic violence offenders which will allow police to make their presence known to these individuals.
- The Premier has made it a priority to reduce the rate of domestic and family violence reoffending within 12 months by 5% by 2019.

SYDNEY'S BOOMING NORTH WEST TO GET HUNDREDS OF EXTRA BUS SERVICES

- Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance has announced 428 additional weekly services to meet increased demand for customers travelling from Sydney's west and northwest to key employment and education hubs.
- While the NSW Government gets on with building the world-class North West Metro, these additional services aim to increase capacity for customers travelling between Macquarie University, Macquarie Park, Macquarie Centre and improve connections to the Norwest Business Park and Norwest Private Hospital
- The 428 extra weekly services are in addition to 315 weekly morning and afternoon peak services delivered to customers in June 2015 for Sydney's West and North.
- Since March 2011, the NSW Government has introduced more than 14,800 extra weekly public transport services across the state.

APPOINTMENT OF BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

- Former NSW Auditor-General Bob Sendt has been appointed as Chairman of the NSW Boundaries Commission, an independent statutory authority that will play an important role in providing independent advice on the merger proposals currently under consideration.
- The Boundaries Commission will review the reports that will be prepared by delegates for each council merger proposal – delegate reports will consider the factors such as financial considerations, communities of interest, elected representation, employment of staff, service and facilities and the attitude of ratepayers and residents.
- Minister for Local Government Paul Toole will consider both the delegates' report and the comments from the Boundaries Commission before making a decision on whether to recommend to the Governor of NSW any changes to local government areas.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OPEN FOR \$2.5 MILLION IN CLUBGRANTS FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts Troy Grant has invited expressions of interest for \$2.5 million in grants under the ClubGRANTS Category 3 program to help organisations build arts and cultural infrastructure in their local communities.
- The Category 3 grants program will provide between \$100,000 and \$300,000 for new and upgraded infrastructure for up to 25 projects with particular emphasis given to projects that support disadvantaged, regional and remote communities in the 2015/15 financial year.
- Projects eligible for funding can include construction, alteration, renovation, completion or fitting out of buildings for arts and cultural use.
- The ClubGRANTS team at Liquor and Gaming NSW can be contacted for further information on (02) 9995 0940 or at clubgrants.category3@olgr.nsw.gov.au

REGIONAL NSW JOBS GROWTH STILL STRONG

- Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that the NSW Government's focus on jobs growth in regional NSW continues to deliver great results.
- Over 59,000 new jobs have been created in regional NSW over the last 12 months.
- Continued investment in regional areas is driving job creation and generating opportunity for regional NSW, with projects including:
 - \$6 billion of investment under Rebuilding NSW to accelerate capital investment in regional areas;
 - \$110 million under the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund;
 - \$92 million of Commonwealth, state and private funds for the Blackspots Program;
 - \$32 million Resources for Regions to all LGA's affected by mining in NSW;
 - \$32 million for the Murray Darling Basin Economic Diversification Program.

NEW CYCLING SAFETY MEASURERS START NEXT WEEK

- Minister for Roads Duncan Gay has reminded all road users that new reforms will soon come into effect that puts the safety of cyclists at the forefront of people's minds.
- From 1 March 2016, drivers who pass a bicycle rider must allow a distance of at least:
 - 1 metre when the speed limit is 60km/h or less;
 - 1.5 metres when the speed limit is more than 60km/h.
- The new laws include increased penalties for bicycle riders to deter them from dangerous behaviour such as running a red light.
- For more information on the changes visit gotogether.transport.nsw.gov.au.

FREE TICKETS TO PREMIER'S GALA CONCERTS

- Minister for Ageing John Ajaka has announced that free tickets to the 2016 Premier's Gala Concerts are now available.
- The Premier's Gala Concerts are a showcase of Australia's best and upcoming musical theatre and recording artists and are the highlight of the 2016 NSW Seniors Festival which is celebrated throughout the state from 1 to 10 April.
- Now in its 59th year, NSW Seniors Festival is the largest festival for seniors in the Southern Hemisphere with over 300,000 people taking part in more than 1,000 free and discounted events.
- For more information about the 2016 NSW Seniors Festival visit <http://www.nswseniorsweek.com.au/>