

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 27 NOVEMBER 2015

NSW ACHIEVES OUTSTANDING RESULT IN \$10.258 BILLION TRANSGRID LEASE

- Premier Mike Baird and Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian have announced the successful lease of high-voltage electricity transmission asset TransGrid, unlocking billions of dollars for investment in new and productive infrastructure.
- The transaction will deliver gross proceeds of \$10.258 billion which will help fund a raft of infrastructure projects across the State as part of the NSW Government's Rebuilding NSW plan.
- Following the transaction, the NSW Government will retain significant influence over TransGrid as lessor, licensor, as safety and reliability regulator and through the planning system. TransGrid will also continue to be regulated by the Australian Energy Regulator which determines network charges.
- The NSW Government is now proceeding with the partial lease of Ausgrid and expects to complete the transaction by mid-2016.

NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT WATCHDOG FOR NSW

- The NSW Government will create a new Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) which will streamline and strengthen oversight of the NSW Police Force and NSW Crime Commission.
- The current oversight system has multiple agencies with overlaps and duplication of roles and functions – this new body will have two clearly defined functions:

- Detecting and investigating serious misconduct and corruption; and
- Overseeing complaints handling.
- Legislation to form the new commission is expected to be introduced in 2016 and it is due to become operational in 2017.
- Further information is available at www.justice.nsw.gov.au.

NEW EYES IN THE SKY AND ENHANCED SECURITY ON THE GROUND

- Deputy Premier and Minister for Police Troy Grant has announced almost \$25 million will be spent on upgrading security at police stations across NSW in the wake of terror attacks in Sydney and overseas.
- The upgrades include upgrades to CCTV, installation of safety barriers on police station counters, upgrades to the Sydney Police Centre and Goulburn Police Academy.
- The funding also includes a new fixed wing aircraft, known as 'PolAir8', which will bolster the NSW Police Force operational capability for counter terrorism support and provide an effective presence to combat crime state wide.
- These measures will help protect our frontline police and the NSW Government will continue to consider further measures to keep our community safe.

FIRST SHARK TECHNOLOGY TRIAL UNDERWAY

- Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair has announced the NSW Government is fast-tracking the rollout of its \$16 million shark strategy – a world first strategy that will trial drones and boost aerial surveillance to reduce the risk for swimmers and surfers.
- The first field tests of drones have begun in Coffs Harbour which will test the effectiveness of drone technology in shark attack mitigation by feeding images back to the operator in real time using GPS coordinates.
- Two 4G listening stations will be delivered at Sharpes Beach at Ballina and Clarkes Beach Byron Bay to provide real time tracking of tagged sharks with a further eight listening stations to be delivered at various locations.
- In addition, the NSW Government has increased aerial helicopter surveillance on the North Coast with helicopters flying at least three hours each day from 1

December until 26 January 2016, flying from Byron Bay to Evans Head twice daily.

- Aerial surveillance will also continue between Newcastle and Wollongong and will start in areas on the South Coast.

NEW TENDER FOR CENTRAL BARANGAROO

- Premier Mike Baird has announced the new tender process of Central Barangaroo to incorporate the exciting addition of an underground station as part of the Sydney Metro project.
- Central Barangaroo is the final section of the precinct to be designed and will provide the link between the natural beauty of Barangaroo Reserve in the north to the new financial, retail and residential hub of Barangaroo South.
- In announcing the Barangaroo metro station in this year's Budget, the NSW Government committed to undertaking a new tender informed by the recommendations of an expert working group and the successful proposal will be subject to strict design assessment and planning controls.
- More information on the bid process can be found at www.barangaroo.com.

STRONGER SYLLABUS TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- NSW Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pru Goward has announced a new teaching resource for the mandatory Year 7 to Year 10 Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) syllabus from Term 1 in 2016.
- The new resource, the *Prevention of Domestic Violence Toolkit*, has been developed by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) with specialist advice from Domestic Violence NSW and includes:
 - Signs and symptoms of abuse;
 - Support available;
 - Sample activities; and
 - Frequently asked questions.
- Domestic violence is a whole of community issue and the NSW Government is working with young people to ensure they are empowered with the knowledge of what domestic violence is and how they can identify possible ways to protect themselves and others.

GOSFORD MAJOR HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT ON TRACK

- The \$368 million Gosford Hospital redevelopment is on track, with early work continuing on-site in preparation for major construction to commence next year.
- The Gosford Hospital redevelopment is an important project for the Central Coast and will deliver a new and larger emergency department and intensive care unit, increased maternity services, a new psychiatric emergency care centre, expanded cancer treatment services and operating theatre suite, a new multistorey car park and more outpatient services.
- This redevelopment will transform the facility and deliver vital services for the Central Coast community.

\$1 BILLION IN RED TAPE REFORM EXPECTED FOR NSW

- The NSW Government is committed to giving small businesses and entrepreneurs the freedom to start up, scale up and develop by removing regulation to ensure they can get on with what they need to do.
- We are on track to achieve over \$980 million in red tape savings since September 2011.
- By consulting with industry groups and the community, the NSW Government has found numerous ways to reduce or improve regulation for the benefit of everyone, including several small business reforms which include:
 - Food safety supervisor – removal of notification requirements;
 - Automatic mutual recognition of electricians from ACT, QLD and VIC; and
 - Egg stamping exemption for small egg producers selling direct from farm gates.

ICARE LAUNCH MEANS BETTER CARE FOR WORKERS

- Minister for Finance, Services & Property Dominic Perrottet has officially launched Insurance & Care ('icare'), the state's new customer-focused workers compensation insurance and care services provider.
- icare manages \$31 billion in assets and \$26 billion in liabilities, making it one of the largest general insurance service providers in Australia.

- icare will deliver fairer, more sustainable workers insurance schemes to injured workers under the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme, the Lifetime Care and Support Authority, the Dust Diseases Authority, the NSW Self Insurance Corporation and NSW Sporting Injuries Compensation Authority.
- The launch follows the separation of WorkCover NSW into three discrete organisations: the State Insurance Regulatory Authority for workers compensation regulation, SafeWork NSW for work health and safety regulation and icare for workers compensation insurance.

FEE-FREE TRAINING FOR BLUESCOPE WORKERS

- The NSW Government is continuing to support BlueScope workers who want to transition to a new career for the future by giving them the opportunity to learn new skills and earn new qualifications without paying the associated fees.
- Those who undertake training can choose from the more than 700 qualifications subsidised by the NSW Government.
- The NSW Government is supporting the Illawarra region and its workers and their families by helping them secure a new job for the future.

LARGE AIR TANKER 'THOR' GETS EXTRA AIR TIME

- The NSW Government has extended the contract of the Hercules C130 Large Air Tanker 'Thor' to assist fire-fighters in what is predicted to be a challenging bushfire season.
- The extension of Thor's contract will be for an additional six weeks until mid-January 2016 and will complement the DC 10 Very Large Air Tanker 'Southern Belle' in the fight against bush and grass fires.
- The NSW Government made a record \$314 allocation to the Rural Fire Fighting Fund in the 2015/16 Budget which will provide for the delivery of 112 new fire trucks, a further 27 refurbished vehicles, 32 logistics and operational support vehicles, three state of the art fire control centres and 42 station upgrades or new stations progressively delivered.

LONG JETTY DIALYSIS UNIT OFFICIALLY OPENED

- NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner has officially opened a new dialysis unit at the Long Jetty Healthcare Centre on the Central Coast.
- The new \$3.5 million unit will help meet increased demand for renal services in the region by providing an additional 10 treatment chairs for people requiring dialysis with the capacity to open a further 10 treatment chairs as demand increases.
- More than 120 people receive dialysis across the Central Coast Local Health District's renal units and this new service is a welcome addition to the region.
- The NSW Government is supporting the Central Coast community and is providing health care closer to home.

FIRST DIGITAL LICENCES READY FOR DOWNLOAD MID 2016

- The NSW Government has announced the introduction of digital licences from mid-2016.
- The first licences transitioning to the new digital platform will be the Recreational Fishing Fee, Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) Competency Cards. The Digital Driver Licence is expected to be available by the end of 2018.
- This new technology will allow for licence holders to display, apply, update and renew their licences using their smartphone and they will also have security safeguards built in.
- NSW currently issues more than 23 million licences each year covering 769 different licence types.

SPORTS GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR NSW COMMUNITIES

- Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres has encouraged local sporting clubs and groups across NSW to apply for funding under the Local Sport Grant Program which will see up to \$50,000 in grants distributed in each of the 93 NSW electorates.
- This funding aims to increase regular and on-going participation and active recreation by encouraging more people to get moving and become active in their local communities.

- There are four project types within the Program:
 - Sport club development;
 - Community sport events;
 - Sport access; and
 - Facility development and capital equipment.

- For more information please visit sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants.