

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 4 MARCH 2016

NSW DOMINATES NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

- NSW accounted for almost the entire rise in total demand across the country over the last year according to recent official ABS data.
- Australia's final demand grew by \$4.2 billion over the last year, with NSW making a \$4.1 billion contribution. All other states and territories combined to produce a net rise of \$133 million.
- NSW 's solid result was largely driven by continued strong consumer spending, a lift in business machinery and equipment spending and a rise in construction.
- The NSW Government is getting on with delivering the infrastructure and services the people of NSW need and is also producing record levels of jobs growth.

DELIVERING MORE PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNSELLORS

- A 45 per cent boost in public school counselling and wellbeing services is being rolled out.
- The first of the 236 additional counselling and psychologist positions have now been filled in NSW schools as part of the \$167 million Supported Students, Successful Students initiative.
- This year, 50 primary schools will have a full-time student counsellor or psychologist for the first time. The number of high schools with a full-time position will more than quadruple to almost 200.

NEW NERVE CENTRE TO REDUCE TRAIN COMMUTER DELAYS

- Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance has announced a new rail nerve centre will be built aimed at reducing train delays and providing faster information to customers.
- The Sydney Trains Rail Operations Centre is a \$276 million investment to be built at Green Square, ensuring all facets of the train network are controlled from a single location with new technology to manage train movements and customer safety.
- Knowledge from across the globe has been sourced to ensure the design incorporate the latest technology that will improve train services for customers.
- The Sydney Trains network control facility is set to open in 2018.

NEW TASK FORCE TO TACKLE CTP GREEN SLIP FRAUD

- The NSW Government will establish a taskforce and hotline to crack down on CTP fraud across the state.
- The average green slip for a car in Sydney now costs more than \$600 and prices have risen up to 70% since 2008 with fraud being a contributing factor.
- The taskforce, chaired by the Chief Executive of the State Insurance Regulatory Authority will make recommendations to the NSW Government on strategies to deter, detect and respond to unmeritorious and fraudulent CTP claims.
- Further information on the taskforce and hotline is available at www.sira.nsw.gov.au

WORLD-CLASS TOURISM MARKETING MAKES NSW NO.1

- World class tourism marketing campaigns attractions and events have pushed international visitor numbers to a record high in NSW with 3.4 million overseas visitors spending \$8.45 billion in 2015.
- The International Visitor Survey released by Tourism Research Australia puts international visitors to NSW at 3.4 million (up 6.6%), number of nights stayed at 85.8 million (up 12.9%) and expenditure was up 19.2% to \$8.45 billion.

- NSW leads Victoria by almost one million visitors, nearly \$2 billion in expenditure and is ahead of Queensland by 1.1 million visitors and \$3.5 billion in spending.
- These results demonstrate the NSW Government's ongoing investment in tourism and major events.

NEW FUNDING FOR PROJECTS WHICH SUPPORT ANZAC LEGACY

- Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott has announced more than \$125,000 will be invested in the conservation of 24 war memorials across NSW as part of the Community War Memorial Fund.
- This investment comes as the NSW Government opens a new round of ANZAC Community Grants of up to \$2,000 for projects which educate communities about the role Australia played in wars and conflicts and which supports the activities of the NSW veterans community.
- Applications are also now open for the next round of funding under the Community War Memorials Fund which allows for a grant of up to \$10,000 for the conservation, repair or protection of a community war memorial.
- More information can be found at www.veterans.nsw.gov.au.

\$110 MILLION BOOST FOR REGIONAL WATER AND WASTE WATER

- Minister for Lands and Water Niall Blair has announced 45 projects have been shortlisted as part of the NSW Government's \$110 million Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program to ensure regional communities have the right infrastructure to build for the future.
- The Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program enables local water utilities to construct modern water and sewerage infrastructure and associated works to provide safe, secure and reliable water and sewerage services for their communities.
- Since 2011, \$221 million has been spent on 35 projects under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program across NSW.
- A full list of the projects is available at www.water.nsw.gov.au/urban-water/regional-water-and-waste-water-backlog-program

FINES TO GO DIGITAL

- Police will soon be able to issue electronic infringement notices under changes to be introduced to NSW Parliament, freeing up officers to spend more time on the frontline.
- A successful trial involved police officers to give offenders the option to receive fines electronically either by email or text message allowing them to issue an infringement without having to return to the station which meant more time spent out in the public.
- The wider use of electronic infringement notices will mean increased flexibility and less paperwork for police and will mean people receive and pay their fines more quickly.
- Those who are uncomfortable with receiving an electronic infringement notice will still have the option of receiving a paper-based notice.

HELPING END ELDER ABUSE

- Minister for Ageing John Ajaka has announced more money for the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit, which has already received more than 4,000 calls since it was created.
- The NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit is a confidential, free service that provides information, advice and referral and has received more than \$2 million in NSW Government support since it was created in March 2013.
- In response to strong demand, the NSW Government has approved additional funding of more than \$60,000 to expand the 'train the trainer' program – a program that delivers sessions to help frontline workers (like nurses) identify and act on signs of elder abuse.
- If you see or hear something that isn't right, tell someone or call the Elder Abuse Helpline on 1800 628 221.