

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 5 FEBRUARY 2016

BILLION DOLLAR SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND TO DELIVER BETTER OUTCOMES

- The NSW Government has officially launched its social housing fund, which in its first phase will deliver an additional 3,000 social and affordable homes and slash waiting lists for vulnerable families.
- The Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) will be set up with \$1.1 billion in seed capital from the NSW Government.
- The SAHF will be used to achieve social outcomes for tenants such as improving employment and education prospects, providing stability and support to women and children who have experienced domestic violence, providing stability and ongoing support for people with mental health support needs and achieving economic independence for tenants.
- Premier Mile Baird has called for expressions of interest from non-government organisations, landholders and the private sector to tap into the new fund and deliver better outcomes for the State's most vulnerable.

NSW BUILDING APPROVALS AT HISTORIC HIGH

- Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian has welcomed official ABS figures which have revealed a record number of new homes were given the green light in NSW in 2015.
- Data shows that 66,705 homes were approved in the 12 months to December – 74% above the decade average and well above the next highest number of approvals of 57,593 in 1994.

- Since the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government came to office in 2011, dwelling approvals have averaged 4,025 per month compared to only 2,655 approvals per month over the five years to March 2011.
- This achievement is yet another reminder that NSW was the standout economy in the nation in 2015 and this Government is working hard to make sure NSW remains at the top.

FINE PAYMENTS GO MOBILE WITH SERVICE NSW APP

- Minister for Finance, Services and Property Dominic Perrottet has announced an update to the Service NSW smartphone app to make it easier for drivers to pay fines, track payments and review photos of infringements from their smartphones.
- The latest app enables users to receive a mobile alert shortly after incurring a road or traffic fine, pay the fine from the app and set payment reminders to avoid late fees.
- The Service NSW app supports delivery of the State and Premier's Priorities of ensuring 70% of government transactions conducted via Service NSW are digital by 2019.
- The NSW Government is proud to be driving a revolution in government services in Australia with Service NSW at the forefront.

FREIGHT BOOST FOR BATHURST: NEW CARRS CREEK BRIDGE OPEN

- Minister for Roads and Freight Duncan Gay has officially opened the new Carrs Creek Bridge on Lachlan Road in Bathurst, supporting continued local business, job growth and enabling improved freight productivity.
- The new bridge removes a notorious freight pinch point created by an old, single lane and weight restricted crossing and delivers a new 8.4 metre concrete bridge that will provide improved access critical for the movement of livestock and other farming produce.
- The Carrs Creek Bridge replacement is one of 77 projects across the State funded under the first round of the NSW Government's Fixing Country Roads program with successful projects under Round Two due to be announced in the next few months.

RECORD ORGAN DONOR RATES FOR NSW IN 2015

- Health Minister has announced that in 2015 NSW recorded its highest ever number of deceased organ donors.
- NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service figures show that there were 127 deceased organ donors in 2015, enabling 379 organs to be transplanted.
- In 2012 the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government released 'Increasing Organ Donation in NSW', a plan to boost the transplantation rate with initiatives that included:
 - Closure of the NSW Roads and Maritime Services organ donor register and move to the single national Australian Organ Donor Registry administered by Medicare; and
 - Targeted placement of trained donation specialists in hospitals to manage the difficult conversation with grieving families.