

NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 6 NOVEMBER 2015

COUNTERING VOILENT EXTREMISM

- NSW Premier Mike Baird has announced measures to support schools in countering violent extremism (CVE).
- Training will be available for counsellors and other school staff for the start of the 2016 school year to ensure they have the skills to identify vulnerable young people, and help them access support programs.
- More counselling and support services will be provided to schools with up to five Specialist School Support Teams to work proactively with identified schools and respond to critical incidents. These teams are part of a \$47 million suite of measures developed by the NSW Government in response to the rise of violent extremism. Other measures include
 - \$8 million towards community resilience programs committed to youth engagement and community resilience;
 - A Community Cohesion Ambassadors' program that involves high-profile community leaders working to promote social cohesion and harmony;
 - Training programs for key front line NSW Government workers to ensure they can respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals and families;
 - A support and advice telephone line for community members seeking advice on how to best protect and support young people who may be exposed to violent extremist influences; and
 - Establishment of a Premier's CVE Expert Council which will provide advice on NSW approaches.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND

- The NSW Government is providing funding to our local communities to create local solutions to reduce crime and stamp out anti-social behaviour.
- Non-government and not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to apply for up to \$250,000 in funding under the Community Safety Fund – a \$10 million fund that will address crime and anti-social behaviour across NSW through collaborative approaches to community safety and crime reduction, prevention and detection initiatives.
- The Community Safety Fund will support projects that address local crime hot spots and anti-social behaviour in communities and will also support projects that promote safe and inclusive use of public spaces.
- The NSW Government is committed to making our local communities safer places to live.

LIVERPOOL CBD GETS NEW LEASE OF LIFE

- Planning Minister Rob Stokes has announced a new revitalisation plan for Liverpool's CBD which will help create 10,000 new residential units, an extra 22,000 jobs in the city centre and boost the local and regional economy.
- Liverpool is on the precipice of an exciting new era for Southwest Sydney with Badgery's Creek airport driving new jobs in the area.
- The plan can now be prepared for public exhibition after passing through the Department of Planning and Environment's Gateway process.
- The revitalisation plan will help cement Liverpool's status as a key regional city centre for NSW.

HELP FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED FARMERS

- Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair and Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries announced 540 donated bales of hay would be provided to drought affected farmers from the North West NSW.
- The donated bales were organised by Rural Aid's not-for-profit 'Buy A Bale' program, with the full cost of transport covered by the NSW Government under the \$300 million NSW Drought Strategy..

- The NSW Government is committed to providing relief for farmers at Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Collarenebri, Goodooga and around NSW who have been doing it tough in recent years.

NSW GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH METGASCO

- The NSW Government has concluded good-faith negotiations with Metgasco, with an agreement to acquire the company's Northern Rivers petroleum exploration licences and resolve all legal disputes.
- Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts announced that this acquisition continues the NSW Government's approach to reducing the footprint of CSG activity from more than 60 per cent of the state to less than 8 per cent.
- The Strategic Release Framework, outlined in the NSW Gas Plan, will ensure that areas will only be released for exploration following an assessment of economic, social and environmental factors with community consultation conducted up front.

STREAMLINING RURAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

- Home owners and businesses in 110 rural and regional council areas can now fast-track their building projects.
- Planning Minister Rob Stokes said builders and renovators will now be able to get on with their construction projects, following changes to the complying development process.
- Changes to existing legislation will:
 - remove the 14 day pre-approval neighbour notification for residential complying development; and
 - reduce the pre-construction neighbour notification for new buildings and additions.
- The NSW Government has listened to councils, industries and businesses who dealt with the previous notification requirements which made complying development in rural areas more expensive, time consuming and confusing.

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF THE FUTURE TODAY

- Minister for Skills John Barilaro has encouraged students who have recently finished their HSC exams to consider vocational education and training as the first step to a rewarding career.
- From 2016, the NSW Government is investing in new initiatives to make it easier for young people to access high quality training including:
 - 200,000 fee free scholarships with priority for people living in, or on the waiting list, for social housing;
 - A cap on traineeship fees of \$1,000;
 - \$10 million investment to 'try before you buy' free pre-traineeship and pre-apprenticeship course – funding 2,000 places;
 - \$25 million to deliver 25,000 scholarships to students enrolling in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics related vocational qualifications;
 - \$10 million to create 2,000 places for students to train for jobs that will support the delivery of the National Disability Insurance Scheme; and
 - Free vocational education and training for people with a disability, regardless of whether it is a first or subsequent qualification.

SUN SETS ON ROGUE DEVELOPERS

- The NSW Government has announced it will introduce new laws to make developers justify any sunset clause termination of an off the plan sale.
- If a purchaser does not give their consent, a developer will be required to apply to the Supreme Court for leave before any termination can take effect.
- The proposed legislation will apply not only to contracts made after the law comes into effect, but will also apply to contracts that are still in operation.
- The NSW Government is committed to providing greater protections for those who purchase apartments off the plan.

NSW HOUSING APPROVALS AT RECORD HIGHS

- The housing industry continues to move from strength to strength in NSW.
- The latest ABS housing approvals figures show nearly 64,000 homes were approved in the 12 months to September – the highest in almost 42 years.

- NSW Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian said the state's strong building construction pipeline will support jobs, stimulate the economy and will be good news for people wanting to enter the housing market.
- The NSW Government is focused on addressing housing supply in NSW.

NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD FOR LEPPINGTON

- NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes has unveiled final plans for the revitalisation of Leppington with a new neighbourhood, two new schools, a community centre, walking trails and cycleways the key features of what will be south-west Sydney's latest transformation.
- Slabs for new homes are set to be laid within two years at the site and up to 2,500 new homes will be built in the first stage with up to 6,500 to follow over the next four stages.
- Leppington will be a vibrant new community and will capitalise on its proximity to the newly opened Leppington train station.
- The NSW Government is delivering on its promise to boost housing supply, opening up new land and providing the infrastructure and amenities the community requires.

FEE FREEZE: GREATER CERTAINTY FOR STUDENTS ACCESSING TRAINING IN 2016

- NSW Minister for Skills John Barilaro has announced fees for government subsidised vocational education and training will be fixed for 2016 for the majority of qualifications, providing confidence for students wanting to access vocational education and training next year.
- Trainees will also benefit from a \$1,000 cap on traineeships and fees for seven qualifications across Foundation Skills will decrease by more than half.
- 35 new qualifications will be added to the NSW Skills List for 2016, which will provide students with more training options.
- The NSW Government is investing \$2.3 billion to create over 510,000 subsidised training places that is building the skilled workforce for the future.

MORE PEAK HOUR BUSES TO SERVICE CBD

- Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance has announced additional bus services for commuters around Zetland and Roseberry travelling to the CBD.
- During the weekday morning peak period, four additional services will be provided on routes M20 and 343, while during the afternoon peak period two additional services will be provided on route 343 between Martin Place and Kingsford.
- The NSW Government is continuing to monitor the impacts of the new bus network and will make any necessary amendments in consultation with customer demand.