



ONE OF THE GREATEST ECONOMIC TURNAROUND'S IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY!

Turning around a state economy is not an easy task. But the Liberal Government accepted the challenge... and has not only been successful in the state's recovery, but now has NSW leading the country economically.

In 2011, NSW was the worst performing state in Australia. We had the **highest unemployment**, over **\$30 billion in net state debt** and an estimated **\$60 billion infrastructure backlog**.

When the people of NSW elected this Liberal Government, they placed their trust in us to deliver better outcomes for this state. We are pleased to report that **NSW is completely debt free** and expects to record **a surplus of \$4.5 billion** for the 2016-2017 financial year.

NSW UNEMPLOYMENT - THE LOWEST IN THE NATION

Unemployment in NSW has fallen to 4.8% which is significantly lower than the next best state, Western Australia, at 5.5%.

NSW's unemployment rate has been **lower than the rest of the nation for more than 24 consecutive months**.

With a massive infrastructure program and the best business conditions in the nation, NSW is a hive of activity. This activity means jobs for the people of NSW.

NSW is the driving force of the national economy. With more than 332,000 jobs added in NSW since the Liberals came into office in 2011, the State Government is moving forward and continuing to make NSW the best state to live, work and raise a family.



INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FUNDING MODEL

Our NSW Government has utilised a unique funding model of **recycling state owned assets and reinvesting further proceeds into future infrastructure** such as new metro rail lines, major motorways, new hospitals and schools to name a few. In further good news, several of these assets have been **partially leased**, thereby our grandchildren will own them outright in the future but we still achieve half the dividends in the meantime.

It's a bit like leasing half the old farm and getting a windfall profit, while still receiving half the rent. Record funds for NSW have been realised through this innovative process which is now gaining world acclaim.

By investing proceeds into high-value critical infrastructure such as motorways and rail lines, our actual net worth (state owned assets) has significantly increased. We now own more assets than ever before and the value of those assets has reached a quarter of a trillion dollars (\$250 billion). While we immediately recognise when the value of our home increases, seldom do we realise the significant value of our state owned assets, which we all proudly own. Recycling our states assets in this way, improves the quality of life for each and every person in NSW.

DISABILITY UPDATE



It was a pleasure to meet Georgia and her Mum, Elizabeth, at the

Early Links Inclusion Support Service in Campbelltown.

NDIS NOW AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT NSW

NSW continues to lead Australia in transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) with it rolling out across the State.

This is an important time for people with a disability in NSW, who have previously not had access to the Scheme, to have more choice and control over their supports. People living in the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Northern NSW, Mid North Coast, Sydney, South Eastern Sydney, Murrumbidgee, Western NSW and the Far West can now access the NDIS.

The Government's strong financial management has ensured the Scheme is delivered on time and to budget in NSW.

More than 54,000 people with a disability have already joined the NDIS in NSW, with a further 60,000 expected to join in 2017-18. Finally, people with disabilities are at the centre of the decision-making and are empowered to live the life they choose.

More than 90 percent of participants are satisfied with the Scheme in the State. We will continue to work hard with participants and the sector to deliver an NDIS people with a disability deserve.



The National Disability Insurance Scheme reached a major milestone with NSW to become the first state to be fully covered.

PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY TO BENEFIT FROM \$3 BILLION BUDGET

The 2017-18 NSW Budget promotes choice, community inclusion, and engagement for people

with a disability and demonstrates the success of the ongoing transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

This Budget demonstrates the significant investment NSW is making to deliver an NDIS that supports people with a disability to take charge of their future. It also reflects the transition of disability services to the non-government sector and meets the NSW contribution in full.

Budget Highlights Include:

- \$2 billion recurrent funding for supports and services, including \$1.3 billion in funding to the National Disability Insurance Agency for clients who are now being supported under the NDIS.
 - \$1.4 billion on helping people with a disability to participate socially and economically in their community.
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THE NSW BUDGET 2017

HELPING FAMILIES WITH THE COST OF LIVING

The NSW Government is working hard to help families with the rising cost of living.

- From 1 January 2018, the **Active Kids Rebate** will reimburse parents \$100 per child for sporting and fitness related costs.
- Seniors will benefit even more through a two-year partnership with energy supplier AGL, which will offer **NSW Seniors Card** holders new discounts of up to **25% Off Electricity Usage** and **19% Off Gas Usage**.
- The average driver will save around \$120 off their **CTP Green Slip** when the reform commences 1 December 2017.

MAKING HOUSING MORE AFFORDABLE

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE GET A HOME

The "Great Australian Dream" is no longer out of reach for people in NSW.

The NSW Government is supporting first homebuyers through further stamp duty exemptions, which could save up to \$34,360 on a new home. This will support around 24,000 people trying to get a foot on the property ladder.

- Stamp duty has been abolished for first homebuyers on existing and new homes up to \$650,000 and stamp duty discounts for homes up to \$800,000.
- Stamp duty charged on lenders' mortgage insurance has also been abolished, providing a saving of around \$2,900 on an \$800,000 property.

MORE SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

The NSW Government is investing in our future by ensuring our children have the facilities and resources they need, and the education they deserve.

With over 1,000 more teachers and a **\$4.2 billion boost in funding** for new schools and upgraded facilities, the children of NSW will not only have access to excellent educational facilities, but be provided excellence in education.



Congratulations Kellyville Public School on your Memorial Garden project!
This fantastic garden was created & constructed by the students - for the students.
(Pictured with "Project Managers" Adam, Ouwais & Cadel and School Principal - Jenny Walker)



The NSW Government has committed \$41.4 billion on road and public transport infrastructure.

Major investment in WestConnex, upgrades on the Pacific Highway, and a large investment in roads through Western Sydney, will help to connect our state.

NorthConnex will ease congestion along Pennant Hills Road as it links the M2 Motorway to the M1 Freeway heading north to Newcastle. These twin tunnels will eliminate 21 traffic lights and 5,000 trucks off the road, and will save approximately 15 minutes on your trip.



You will experience ZERO traffic lights from Melbourne to Newcastle using the NorthConnex tunnel which links the M1 Pacific Highway to the M2.

OPENING IN 2019

MULTICULTURALISM UPDATE



**An inspiring visit with
The Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra - MCCI in Wollongong.**

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO BENEFIT FROM \$23 MILLION

The 2017-18 NSW Budget provides increased support for Community Language Schools and continues the important work in our diverse communities.

The NSW Budget will continue to help communities excel by providing \$13 million to fund cultural festivals, promote social cohesion, build local partnerships and promote our multicultural success stories.

It also delivers a boost of more than \$1 million over two years for interpreter and translation services in our Courts to make sure people from all backgrounds have equal access to justice.”

This funding is in addition to the \$10.9 million commitment to Community Language Schools to support students to learn a second language.

This is a commitment of up to \$200 per student, an increase of \$70, to help expand their cultural awareness, improve career opportunities and increase the number who study a language through HSC.

Budget Highlights Include:

- \$10 million to engage with communities, support refugees through the development of a dedicated Settlement Unit and celebrate cultural diversity across NSW.
- \$10 million to provide interpreting and language services in more than 100 languages and dialects.
- Over \$3 million of grants for community projects and activities celebrating our cultural diversity.

ANY QUESTIONS?

We always welcome your feedback. For further information, please contact my office on (02) 8882 9555 or via email at castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

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