

## Regional businesses in tourism funding boost

Tumut, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga businesses can now take advantage of a major tourism funding programme aimed at boosting regional economies by attracting more visitors to the area.

Businesses can apply to the Regional Visitor Economy Fund – a package providing \$7.2 million in funding, which will give a much-needed boost to tourism across the electorate.

The funding will assist regional providers to improve services, and to better promote them to domestic and overseas audiences. This will ensure that the diversity and beauty of the region is known both in Australia and across the world.

This is just the first year of a \$21.6 million commitment made by the Liberals and

Nationals Government. This represents a \$6 million increase in previous funding.

This programme is part of the Government's Visitor Economy Industry Action Plan, which was developed based on recommendations by the Visitor Economy Taskforce.

Of the available funding, \$3.7 million will be devoted to funding Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs), while the remaining \$3.5 million will be awarded as part of a competitive application process.

Operators in the Lockhart, Tumut and Wagga Wagga areas can apply for both marketing and product development funding. Further information on the application process can be found at the Destination NSW website [www.destinationnsw.com.au](http://www.destinationnsw.com.au)

### FREE TOURISM WORKSHOP

Tourism operators in the Tumut, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga areas are being encouraged to take full advantage of a new program of free workshops designed to provide them with information and new skills to grow their own business and tourism for the region.

Called 'NSW First' the workshops are a new initiative announced recently by the NSW Government and are being delivered by Destination NSW, the tourism and major events agency.

Wagga Wagga will be the location of a 'NSW First' workshop, taking place on Wednesday 24 July, 2013. Details about the workshop and how to register can be found at [www.destinationnsw.com.au/workshops](http://www.destinationnsw.com.au/workshops)

## More police on the beat

The NSW Police Force continues to grow in strength on the back of an election commitment to have a record number of officers serving the community by August 2015.

The NSW Government welcomed a further 202 police officers who graduated at Goulburn in early May with two of those appointed to positions in the local area.

Since the election in 2011, the Government has delivered 370 additional positions into the NSW Police Force and is on target to deliver 859 extra positions.

This Government is on track to reaching a record 16,665 officers by August 2015.

The Government also added 50 new positions to the Police Transport Command and 30 to the Traffic and Highway Patrol.

This Government established these new Police Commands and we are now boosting their numbers.

Police are being provided with more resources



Discussing policing in the Wagga Local Area Command with Acting Superintendent Rod Smith.

and powers. These include:

- \$3.5 million for an additional 25 Mobile Police Command Vehicles;
- New 'Move on Powers' for Police and a new offence of 'Intoxicated and Disorderly';
- New consorting laws, restrictions on bikies in Kings Cross and crackdowns on tattoo parlours;
- The establishment of a new Highway Patrol and Traffic Command and a Police Transport Command;
- The rebuilding of PCYC's and the establishment of the 'eyewatch' program;
- An audit of Police resources resulting in 300 additional police deployed to country NSW;
- The reform and strengthening of the NSW Crime Commission;
- The Ammunition Control Bill preventing ammunition falling into the hands of criminals;
- The reform of the Police Death and Disability Scheme and the establishment of an injury management program to get more officers back to work; and,
- The reform of the security industry.

## Courthouse on target for \$17m renovation

The development application for the \$17.2 million renovation of Wagga Courthouse has been submitted to the city council – a key step in achieving this long-awaited project.

The project will more than double the footprint of the courthouse from 1535m<sup>2</sup> to 3655m<sup>2</sup>.

This will be the largest ever renovation of the courthouse and will include the construction of a new two-storey building on Sturt Street.

The new 2120m<sup>2</sup> building will include a trial court, facilities for juries and the judiciary, a callover court, a registry, interview rooms for the legal profession, multipurpose spaces for agencies and a safe room for victims of domestic violence.

There will also be a private room where victims of sexual assault will be able to give "in camera" evidence, sparing them the trauma of facing their alleged attacker in court.

Both old and new sections will be accessible to people with a disability. A ramp will be constructed at the main entrance to the complex on the corner of Fitzmaurice and Sturt streets. Lifts will provide easy access to the second storey of the new building.

Courthouse security will be improved through the installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and access control technology.

The renovations are due to begin early next year and are expected to take approximately 12 months. The courthouse will continue to operate during the construction period.

## Health centre grant assists local women

The valuable services offered by Wagga Women's Health Centre have been recognised by the NSW Government's commitment of a significant grant to the centre's bid for a new premises.

This centre offers important services to many women in communities across the electorate, including those from Lockhart and Tumut areas.

Having the opportunity to lobby for the centre and secure a \$100,000 grant from Health Minister Jillian Skinner was the Government's chance to show its support for the centre.

The State Government grant takes fundraising efforts to about \$260,000 towards the centre's relocation to a new premises.

There is now the opportunity for the community and local businesses to get behind this worthwhile project and support WWHC fundraising efforts.

The centre hopes to have raised enough funds by mid 2016 to secure its premises in a central location.



Showing support for Wagga Women's Health Centre after announcing a \$100,000 State Government grant are (back from left) Kym Witney-Soanes, WWHC secretary management committee, Nicholas Bewick, building strategic advisory committee, Gail Meyer, centre manager, Jan Roberts, vice president management committee, Wagga Mayor Rod Kendall, Member for Wagga Daryl Maguire, Helen Mundy, president management committee, Milly Bennett 7, Alesha Bennett, 9, Emma Mundy 6, Harriet Soanes 9, and Meg Mundy 8.

## Changes for learner drivers

The NSW Government's roll out of various changes covering Learner licences will be widely welcomed by many.

Amongst the reforms, young drivers will be offered the chance to reduce their logbook driving hours from 120 to 80 and will be able to drive up to 90km/h. This is another common sense policy that shows the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to improving road safety.

Young drivers and their parents can struggle to log 120 hours behind the wheel while on their L-plates.

Now by taking part in the new Safer Drivers

Course and having professional lessons they can reduce their compulsory supervised driving hours to 80. The Safer Drivers Course will be rolled out throughout NSW between July this year and January 2014.

I'm looking forward to working with the Minister, Duncan Gay, to deliver this course for the Wagga Wagga electorate.

It makes sense that learners also need more supervised driving experience on higher speed roads and the raising of the limit from 80km/h to 90km/h will help in the transition to P-Plates.

Young drivers are tragically over-represented in the NSW road toll and we want to ensure they are all given the opportunity to learn about road safety while they are still learning the basics of driving.

## New rules for childhood vaccination

Unvaccinated children will face exclusion from child care facilities under new laws to be introduced by the NSW Government.

The changes mean parents will need to provide evidence their child is fully vaccinated for age, is on a recognised catch-up schedule, or has an exemption approved by a GP, when enrolling. Parents who have been reluctant to vaccinate will need to consult a GP about their decision and be counselled about the health risks involved before an exemption is granted.

The NSW Government has a multi-faceted approach to lifting the vaccination rate

including a 'Save the Date to Vaccinate' campaign and the creation of a Childcare Enrolment Toolkit to assist child care facilities.

A new app for iPhone and Android phones allows parents to enter their child's name and birth date, as well as their GP's contact details. It will then calculate the next immunisation due date and send a series of reminders to prompt the parent to call their GP for each immunisation. Parents can make that call straight from the app.

Download the app or print a Personalised Vaccination Schedule at [www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.immunisation.health.nsw.gov.au)

## Maintenance funds for local schools

Seven schools in the electorate will share in more than \$10 million in additional maintenance funding this year.

- Lockhart Central School – walls; make necessary repairs, replacement of badly weather damaged and rotting timber.
- Mt Austin Public School – windows and doors; replace timber awning windows with aluminium windows; electrical upgrade.
- Uranquinty Public School – wall; repairs to canteen and store.
- Batlow Technology School – upgrade/resurface pavement.
- Koorringal Public School – toilet upgrade.
- Talbingo Public School – replace floor coverings.
- Willans Hill School – upgrade kitchen/food technology facilities.

The Government has made savings in the Department and as a result can provide more resources directly to schools to improve the learning environment for students.

Capital expenditure on school infrastructure will be more than \$420 million in 2013-14. This Government's school maintenance budget has increased by 22 per cent. Over the past two years, \$1.9 billion has been allocated for maintenance and capital works in schools and TAFEs.

# STATE MATTERS

JUNE 2013

BUDGET SPECIAL



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga



## Community safety protected through use of CCTV

The NSW Government is taking action to introduce exemptions to ensure Wagga Wagga City Council can use Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras to help prevent crime in the city.

This move follows a recent decision by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal which ordered CCTV in the Shoalhaven Council area be turned off after it found they breached privacy laws.

This raised concerns about CCTV use in Wagga.

The tribunal's decision prompted Premier Barry O'Farrell to seek urgent advice from the Attorney General on the steps necessary to validate the continued use of CCTV.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is determined to ensure CCTV remains a vital tool in the fight against crime in Wagga.

The Government wants to provide appropriate exemptions under privacy laws to allow Wagga City Council to use CCTV. This is decisive action to prevent this tribunal decision undermining the efforts of police in Wagga to reduce crime on our streets.

CCTV monitoring of Wagga's CBD is close to reality.

The NSW Government has committed \$100,000 to the \$500,000 project which has the support of NSW Police, Wagga City Council, local businesses and the wider community. Council has committed \$300,000 while Committee 4 Wagga has pledged to raise the remaining \$100,000 from businesses, organisations and the general public.

## Join the fight against graffiti

Community members and groups are being urged to get involved in what promises to be the biggest ever Graffiti Removal Day later this year.

People can participate in two ways: by nominating sites now that need cleaning up, and by lending a hand in the clean-up on Sunday, October 20 between 10am and 4pm. Sporting clubs, businesses, community groups and local councils are encouraged to support this worthwhile cause and volunteer their time in the fight against graffiti.

More information, registration or nomination of clean-up sites at [www.graffitiemovalday.org.au](http://www.graffitiemovalday.org.au)

The NSW Graffiti Hotline is 1800 707 125.



There is a renewed confidence across local economies with the Government sending a strong message that NSW is "open for business". Opening the new Masters Home Improvement store in Wagga recently was a chance to discuss retail and trade issues with (from left) Masters' National Operations Manager Grant Brodie, Wagga Store Manager Chris Flanagan and Chief Executive Officer Don Stallings.

## Getting on with the job ...

It's been just over two years since the Liberals and Nationals team was elected to NSW Government.

We have achieved so much in that time, but there's a lot more to do.

Our Liberals and Nationals team is getting on with the job of rebuilding NSW – our aim is to make this State Number One again.

And we're off to a great start – creating jobs and business opportunities, building the economy, providing more infrastructure, putting more police on the streets, providing funding for new nursing graduates and delivering better services.

We are honouring all our local election commitments and will keep working hard for local communities. To see the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital redevelopment take shape in just two years is a fantastic achievement, one the whole community can claim as its own.

The Government is serious about putting NSW first – we're making the tough decisions now so this State can enjoy prosperity for many years to come.

Daryl Maguire MP  
Member for Wagga Wagga

Contact  
Daryl  
Maguire MP

Phone: 1300 768 378 or (02) 6921 1622

Fax: (02) 6921 4424

Electorate Office: 72-76 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Email: [waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au)



Authorised by Daryl Maguire MP. Printed by MSS Media, 161 Lake Albert Road, Koorringal NSW 2650, using Parliamentary entitlements

Message from  
Barry O'Farrell MP  
Premier of New South Wales



## Delivering for Wagga Wagga – More jobs and investing in infrastructure

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is getting on with the job of rebuilding the State.

Over the last two years more than 100,000 additional jobs have been created and NSW now has the second lowest unemployment rate of all the States.

Since March 2011 we've employed 5,000 additional nurses, teachers and police officers to help improve frontline service delivery.

We are building for the future – over the next four years we are delivering the biggest State infrastructure agenda in Australia's history, investing \$61.8 billion.

We believe it is only through fiscal discipline that we can invest in additional infrastructure and invest in better frontline services.

When coming to government in March 2011, the NSW economy lagged behind other Australian States – but now it's returning to its rightful place as the engine room of Australia.

There's a lot more to be done, but with continued strong, responsible and stable government we will make NSW number one again.

Yours sincerely

Barry O'Farrell MP  
Premier

## INVESTMENT BOOST FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- The NSW Government has announced a \$112 million investment over four years to fund community-driven natural resource and productive landscape projects.
- Catchment Action funding is provided to Catchment Management Authorities for farmer-driven projects that underpin sustainable, productive agriculture and community-driven projects to look after beaches, estuaries, regional and suburban bushland.
- Catchment Management Authorities and their community partners such as Landcare, Bushcare and Coastcare are working on hundreds of projects across NSW and this funding announcement provides certainty for these groups to continue their good work.

## RECORD HAZARD REDUCTION IN NSW NATIONAL PARKS

- National Parks and Wildlife Service crews have reached a new record for hazard reduction burning in national parks, which will help reduce the bushfire threat next summer.
- The total amount of hazard reduction in national parks has been 135,000 hectares since July 2012 – 40 per cent more than the previous annual best of 96,000 hectares in 2009/10.
- We are on track to meet our target of doubling hazard reduction in national parks to at least 135,000 hectares each year – providing very real protection to communities.
- The NSW Government had provided \$62.5 million over five years to boost fire resources and double hazard reduction in national parks.

## NEW BAIL ACT PASSES PARLIAMENT

- The new Bail Act has passed Parliament – putting the safety of the community, victims and witnesses first.
- The new laws will modernise the complex and inconsistent bail laws currently in place, which too often lead to decisions which confound the community, police and legal practitioners.
- When considering bail under the new laws, police and the courts will need to decide if the accused poses an unacceptable risk of endangering the safety of victims, witnesses or the community in general; interfering with witnesses or evidence; committing another serious offence; or failing to appear at court.
- The new Bail Act will commence in a year's time to allow time to train police and judicial officers who will be applying it.

## E10 CAMPAIGN: CHEAPER, CLEANER AND GREENER

- The Government has announced a campaign to promote the use of biofuels as a cheaper, cleaner and greener alternative.
- A sustainable biofuels industry will also drive employment and investment in regional NSW, while also helping to reduce cost of living pressures.
- Motorists can access information on whether their vehicles can operate on E10 here: [www.fca.gov.au/publications/all/all/all/3/can-my-vehicle-operate-on-ethanol-blend-petrol](http://www.fca.gov.au/publications/all/all/all/3/can-my-vehicle-operate-on-ethanol-blend-petrol)

## STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA

- NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has completed a trade mission in China to further strengthen vitally important economic, community and cultural ties. Mr O'Farrell delivered the message to Chinese government leaders and potential investors that NSW is open for business.
- China is the State's largest trading partner. In 2011-12, two-way merchandise trade was valued at \$26.8 billion – an increase of 75 per cent from five years earlier.

## BOOK IT: FUNDING BOOST FOR 34 PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- Public libraries in rural and regional NSW are the big winner from the latest round funding with 80 per cent of the \$2.5m allocation going to the bush.
- 34 local councils will receive grants for projects, providing significant public benefit and improving public library services for NSW citizens.
- The NSW Government understands public libraries play a critical role in our communities by providing access to collections, information and technology that help people at all stages of their lives. The NSW Government is committed to working with councils to enhance library services and facilities across the State.

## EVERY NSW SCHOOL TO GET FLASHING LIGHTS

- In a landmark announcement for the safety of our children, the NSW Government has announced the successful school zones flashing lights program will be extended to every school by the end of 2015.
- The State Budget will allocate an additional \$13 million to ensure an additional 1,500 schools will get lights by 2015 that otherwise would have missed out.
- The NSW Government is getting on with the job of increasing safety in school zones with the installation of the first flashing lights as part of the accelerated installation program.
- The installation of flashing lights is now occurring at nearly three times the rate of the former Labor Government.
- By the end of June, 280 flashing lights were installed at a total of 1,340 schools, making it the largest number ever rolled out in a single financial year.

# 2013-14 NSW Budget

Securing the future for NSW

- Controlling expenses so they do not exceed revenue
- Reducing payroll tax burden to support new jobs
- Delivering \$60 billion to fix the infrastructure backlog
- Boosting funds for front-line services



## Making NSW number one

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is securing the future of the State by delivering a Budget that consolidates the rewards of tough decisions and reforms.

We've managed to again live within our means and reduce debt to get the Budget back on track to surplus.

Despite global economic challenges, we are committed to delivering our election commitments to improve frontline services, protect the vulnerable and invest in critical infrastructure – whilst maintaining NSW's triple-A credit rating.

This Budget boosts funding for Health by \$884 million; Education by \$524 million; and Police by \$171 million. This builds on the 5,000 additional nurses, teachers and police officers recruited since March 2011.

A record \$14.6 billion investment in Transport and Roads will help deliver better infrastructure and improved services. The Budget will also provide a \$300 million boost to the Building the State package – extending the first homebuyers scheme and providing priority infrastructure to increase the supply of new housing.

This Budget is about securing our future to make NSW number one.

To find out more information on the NSW Government's priorities and commitments, please visit [www.premier.nsw.gov.au](http://www.premier.nsw.gov.au)

## Local Budget investments

- \$42.1 million to continue work on the \$282.1 million Wagga Base Hospital redevelopment.
- \$35 million for the Bridges for the Bush program, which includes money for the Kapooka Bridge replacement.
- \$4.6 million for the expansion of mental health services in Wagga.
- \$2.9 million for the Lockhart Multipurpose Service.
- \$6,572,000 for the Wagga courthouse upgrade, which has a total estimated cost of \$17.2 million.
- \$779,000 for the \$29.3 million Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre upgrade.
- \$1.5 million to the network of 10 regional sport academies.
- \$755,000 for Legal Aid to assist homeless people at shelters, health facilities and community centres, including those in the Riverina and South West Slopes.
- \$2 million to state regional arts boards.

## Securing the region's future

The NSW 2013-14 Budget consolidates the rewards of tough decisions and reforms undertaken over the past two years to secure the future of the Wagga Wagga electorate. Despite revenues falling below expectations, NSW is now living within its means.

This Budget invests in services and infrastructure while reducing forecast debt by \$9 billion. The NSW Budget 2013-14 invests almost \$60 billion for infrastructure across the State.

Business owners from Wagga, Tumut, Lockhart and surrounding areas will benefit from the lift in the payroll tax threshold and the increased payroll tax rebate for new jobs. First homebuyers in our electorate who buy a new home will benefit from the extension of the Building the State package with more than \$35,000 in assistance available.

## Driving Jobs Growth



## Community input vital in major planning decisions



Discussing the new planning system with NSW Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard before addressing local builders about proposed changes.

The NSW Government is building a world class planning system which will create great places to live – and deliver houses, jobs and infrastructure to support our growing population.

We have consulted widely since June 2011 and more than 4,000 people across the State gave their expertise and feedback at events and online forums. A Green Paper (setting out the Government's new direction) was released on 14 July 2012.

More than 1,500 submissions were received and a White Paper (setting out the likely legislative direction) was released on 16 April 2013.

- The New Planning System White Paper proposes:
- In an Australian first, a Community Participation Charter will give residents a legal right to participate in major decisions that shape our suburbs and regions.
  - A greater focus on clear planning

strategies to set upfront ground rules, defining what type of development is permitted in a given area.

- Areas with high environmental or heritage value will be identified and protected.
- Everyday planning proposals will receive quicker decisions (eg. New homes and extensions in less than 25 days).
- Planning documents will be in plain English and information will be available via a "one stop shop" electronic portal.
- Residents will benefit from infrastructure being rolled-out alongside growth.
- About 80 per cent of building proposals will qualify for fast track decisions, saving business and families around \$174 million a year by cutting red tape.

For more information go to [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem)



- The NSW economy continues to show ongoing resilience with the latest ABS National Accounts showing State Final Demand growing 0.4 per cent for the quarter.
- Over the past year, demand growth in NSW increased by 2.1 per cent, the second strongest growth of all the states.
- NSW's result was driven by continued growth in household spending and public sector investment.
- The figures also confirm the turnaround in the critical housing sector is well underway, leading to growing investment in housing construction across the State.

## NSW posts second highest State growth

The latest State Final Demand (SFD) figures demonstrate the resilience of the NSW economy.

This data also confirms that the turnaround in the critical housing sector is well underway, leading to growing investment in housing construction across the State. Housing investment increased 4.6 per cent in the quarter, following a 1.5 per cent rise in the December quarter.

New dwelling investment continues to be the primary driver of improvement (up 25.7 per cent through the year). The NSW Government will continue to invest in the drivers of our economy and support the creation of thousands of new jobs through our record investment in key infrastructure and Jobs Action Plan.

The NSW economy is performing markedly better on a number of measures

including consumer confidence, jobs growth and housing.

Key results include:

- Consumer confidence – NSW consumers remain the second most optimistic in the nation.
- Retail spending – for the first four months of 2013, retail sales increased by 3.8 per cent (or at an annual pace of 11.9 per cent), representing the strongest start to a calendar year since 2001.
- Jobs – NSW jobs growth is the strongest of all states since the change of Government. NSW's unemployment rate (5.3%) has been below the national average for the past 15 months and is the second lowest in the nation. Under the O'Farrell Government, 130,600 new jobs have been created in NSW.

## 'Gonski' reforms welcomed

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell recently announced NSW would be the first Australian State to agree to the "Gonski" national education reforms.

This is great news for Wagga Wagga students, teachers and parents. It will mean more resources, a fairer system and higher standards, and as a result a better education for our children.

The agreement will deliver an additional \$5 billion for NSW schools, highlighting the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's commitment to delivering a world class education system in Wagga Wagga and across NSW.

It will also build on the NSW Government's education reforms, including improving literacy and numeracy, empowering principals and school communities to make local decisions and raising teaching quality.

I am proud of this historic reform which could not have been achieved without the advocacy of local students, teachers and parents.



Contact  
Daryl  
Maguire MP

Phone: 1300 768 378 or (02) 6921 1622  
Fax: (02) 6921 4424  
Electorate Office: 72-76 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
Email: [waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

