

STATE MATTERS

DECEMBER 2017



Daryl Maguire MP Member for Wagga Wagga

A photograph of two men in dark suits and ties shaking hands in front of a building under construction. The building has blue and white panels. An orange and white striped safety cone is visible in the background.

**\$2 million funding
secures Palliative
Care Hospice**

HOSPITAL WORKS PROGRESS

The Wagga Wagga Health Service (WWHS) campus redevelopment is progressing with Stage 2 works nearing completion and Stage 3 underway.

A new front entry canopy will be finished in early December 2017 along with a new front entry to the Acute Services Building.



ABOVE: Another 42 car parking spaces have been added as work on Stage 2 of the hospital redevelopment is completed.

The forecourt area will include a new car park with an additional 42 spaces provided with landscaped surrounds.

This work signals the end of Stages 1 and 2 of the \$282.1 million hospital redevelopment.

STAGE 3

Work on the \$170 million Stage 3 has already started with enabling works quickly advancing. More than \$450 million will have been invested in this redevelopment when it's finished.

Stage 3 will deliver enhanced rehabilitation, ambulatory care and community health services including renal dialysis, BreastScreen, allied health, community mental health and additional dental care services.

BELOW: Daryl Maguire MP and Wagga Wagga Rural Referral Hospital Director Helen Cooper inspect the finished work on Stage 2 of the redevelopment.



PALLIATIVE CARE FUNDING



Wagga and surrounding district communities are now assured a new 10-bed palliative care facility will be completed early next year after a \$2 million funding contribution towards the Forrest Centre's hospice.

The NSW Government funding adds to the \$2 million raised within the community and ensures construction of the facility is completed and ready for opening around April 2018.

The NSW State Budget included a record \$100 million palliative care package for regional NSW.

This investment addresses specialist training of staff in rural and regional communities, and also provides for additional healthcare workers – doctors and nurses – in regional areas.

Forrest Centre Chairman Peter Fitzpatrick said the NSW Government's \$2 million commitment was a crucial contribution and "the

last piece of the palliative care puzzle" in ensuring the hospice is built.

"Not everyone gets to die at home – everyone would like to but there are often hurdles. We will provide a space for people to die with dignity, irrespective of their standing in the community," Mr Fitzpatrick said.

The Wagga Palliative Care Alliance was established in 2013. The Alliance includes Murrumbidgee Local Health District, the Forrest Centre, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network and Calvary Health Care Riverina.

COVER PICTURE: *The future of the Palliative Care hospice at The Forrest Centre was secured when chairman Peter Fitzpatrick accepted \$2 million in NSW Government funding from Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire.*

BELOW: *Inspecting the new Palliative Care hospice with The Forrest Centre chairman Peter Fitzpatrick.*



INVESTING IN REGIONAL NSW

Premier Gladys Berejiklian officially opened the state-of-the-art Riverina Oils and Bio Energy (ROBE) plant in Wagga in October – a landmark project for Regional NSW.

ROBE has invested more than \$100 million into the local economy which is a massive vote of confidence in Regional NSW.

The new facility in Bomen will crush more than 200,000 tonnes of locally sourced oilseeds per year, in order to produce world-best oils and vegetable protein meal.

This development shows this region has the potential to attract major international investment as an agricultural and regional powerhouse.

ROBE Managing Director Dhruv Deepak Saxena said Wagga's location and diverse workforce made it the best place to invest.

"We are exporting world-class products across the world. We recently launched our 'Wagga Wagga Oils' brand in India, with the product now available in over 20,000 supermarkets across the sub-continent."

ROBE employs more than 90 local people from Wagga Wagga and surrounding districts.

PICTURED: Premier Gladys Berejiklian performs the official opening of the Riverina Oils and Bio Energy facility at Bomen in October 2017.



BOMEN ENABLING ROADS OPEN



PICTURED: The first heavy vehicle through the new Enabling Roads at Bomen is ready to roll with driver Kurt Leidl performing the official duty. Kurt catches up with Mayor of Wagga Wagga Councillor Greg Conkey, Member for Riverina Michael McCormack, Wagga City Council General Manager James Bolton and Member for Wagga Daryl Maguire.

The \$35 million Bomen Enabling Roads project was officially opened to traffic in November 2017 and paves the way for the potential development of the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics (RIFL) Hub.

The 12-month project included the construction of 7.1kms of new roadways, including the Byrnes Road deviation road, Merino Road, Dorset Drive, a new intersection on the Olympic Highway, two concrete roundabouts, purpose-built entry to the Livestock Marketing Centre and rail underpass which closed the Dampier Street level crossing.

The RIFL Hub, combined with the Bomen Enabling Roads project, will help facilitate effective and efficient movement of freight to and from Sydney, Melbourne and other major destinations.

Road access and traffic safety has been vastly improved around the Bomen Industrial area. The new road extensions will facilitate future industrial growth, jobs and prosperity for the region well into the next century.

The Bomen Enabling Roads project was made possible through funding contributions from all three levels of government. The NSW Government contributed \$8.3 million to the project.



NEW HARNESS RACING TRACK



The \$10 million new harness racing track at Cartwrights Hill in North Wagga is officially underway.

The first sod of soil was turned at the site in October 2017 where the NSW Government confirmed funding support for the project.

Harness Racing NSW Chairman Chris Edwards and local industry representatives were delighted to see the project reach this stage after lengthy delays.

A 1070-metre track is planned with a width of 20 metres to accommodate 10 horses starting off the front row, if required.

Changes to the 110m radius turns

have been made to assist with equine welfare, driver safety and to enhance speed performance. A sprint lane will provide all horses with a competitive opportunity.

Public facilities and race stalls to accommodate 140 horses are also part of the plans.

It is expected the project will be completed in November 2018.

ABOVE: *Catching up with Mayor of Wagga Greg Conkey (centre) and Minister for Racing Paul Toole MP as work on the new harness racing track is set to begin with heavy machinery moving on to the site.*

BELOW: *The official party turn the first sod of soil on the site of the new harness racing track.*



LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRAISED



NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has personally assured North Wagga Public School it is safe from closure while confirming plans for a new primary school in Wagga is underway.

The Premier praised Riverina public schools during a visit to the local school in October, adding almost \$14 million was being provided to schools across the electorate in the latest Resource Allocation Model (RAM) distribution.

This investment in more schools provides a fairer and more effective funding model that continues to provide schools with resources reflecting the individual needs of students.

The new needs-based funding, combined with the professionalism and determination of local teachers, is having a remarkable impact on educational outcomes for local students.

North Wagga Public School will receive nearly \$225,000 in RAM funding in 2018.

The NSW Government is consulting with Wagga City Council to investigate a suitable site location for a new primary school.

PICTURE: *Introducing NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian to North Wagga Public School's Principal Mandy Crocker and school captains (from left) Flynn Jenkins (captain), Will Tester (vice-captain), Eleanor Austin (vice-captain) and Isabelle Bowen (captain).*

St Luke's part of \$10m funding model

More children in Wagga Wagga will have access to high quality early childhood education with St. Luke's Preschool receiving a grant of \$450,000 to upgrade their services.

This builds on the NSW Government's historic investment of more than \$330 million to ensure more children have access to 600 hours of quality, affordable early childhood education until 2020, while also seeing fees reduced on average by 25 per cent across the State.

St. Luke's Preschool is one of 16 services across NSW to receive funding.

The NSW Government is putting kids in regions at the top of the priority list. Early childhood education is vital to childhood development. Children who have access to top quality services have a head start when they begin primary school and these benefits stay with them for life.

OLD COURT REGISTRY'S NEW LIFE



A \$200,000 renovation of Wagga's former court registry building will increase capacity to hear cases involving people in custody.

A courtroom in the old registry building now has high definition Audio Visual Link (AVL) and is a major step forward for justice in the Riverina, adding to state-of-the-art facilities for a range of court and tribunal hearings.

AVL allows the local court to conduct hearings during which defendants appear from prisons or witnesses testify from out of town. The old registry has been refurbished with a large multi-purpose room and an upgraded chambers area.

Wagga is a key regional justice hub, which is why the NSW Government has invested \$17 million in doubling the size of the courthouse and has substantially upgraded the former registry building.

ABOVE: Attorney General Mark Speakman MP announced a new purpose for the former Court Registry, which many years ago was the main post office in Wagga.



It was a great honour earlier this year to recognise the remarkable service of some of our local Justices of the Peace (JPs) who have fulfilled this role for 50 years. John Leigh-Cooper, Charles Down, David Font, Graham Garnett and John Bowman have served in this important community position for five decades. It is a purely voluntary role and we are lucky to have them, and the many other JPs, in our community. Well done to them all.

CRIME PREVENTION



Regional NSW will benefit from a new specialist police team targeting mid-level crime in country areas.

NSW Police Commissioner Michael Fuller and Deputy Commissioner for Regional Field Operations Gary Worboys announced in Wagga in September the first Region Enforcement Squad for country NSW.

The new squad, based in Wagga, aims to decrease the workload for frontline police in the Southern Region.

Commissioner Fuller is driving the first significant reforms to the NSW Police Force's structure in two decades. Regional communities can expect to see more change as the re-engineering process continues.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to giving regional officers all the support they need to stop crime.

Commissioner Fuller said the Region

Enforcement Squad model is about targeting criminals who are driving crime in regional areas. "It's long overdue that the country has the same resources as its city neighbours," Commissioner Fuller said.

ABOVE: Wagga is the first regional city in NSW to have a Regional Enforcement Squad. Announcing the initiative is (from left) Daryl Maguire MP, NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller, Southern Regional Commander Peter Barrie, Wagga Superintendent Bob Noble, NSW Deputy Commissioner Gary Worboys and Police Minister Troy Grant MP.

BELOW: Wagga Police, community and youth groups, and Council representatives recently met at a local Aboriginal intervention program to discuss initiatives in the area. It was an opportunity to gather information from all corners of the community in working together to promote positive outcomes around the city.



BOOST FOR LOCAL SERVICES



A new Tresillian in Murrumbidgee Family Care Centre has opened in Wagga.

The centre, in Yentoo Drive Glenfield, is the result of a joint partnership between Tresillian and the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) and will provide support for parents in the local community, struggling with the demands of a new baby or toddler.

Tresillian offers the community specialist child and family health advice from experienced health professionals to help resolve concerns on a range of early parenting issues. Contact Tresillian's Help Line on 1300 272 736 or visit www.tresillian.org.au

PICTURED: *The official opening of the Tresillian Family Care Centre in Wagga.*



The Regional Oxygen Bank's voluntary work in the community has been recognised by local members of the Australian Hotels Association.

The AHA raised \$5000 for the local charity – a dedicated group of volunteers who manage and maintain a stock of portable oxygen machines for homebound oxygen dependent patients who require short term hire of a machine.

Portable oxygen tanks allow patients the freedom to travel to medical appointments, family gatherings, shopping trips and other short term outings.



ABOVE: *Wagga's AHA branch, represented by David Barnhill (second from left) and John McRedmond (second from right) raised \$5000 for the Regional Oxygen Bank. Michael Cummins from Hospital in the Home displays a portable oxygen machine with ROB's president Brenda Tritton and treasurer Andrew Schmetzer accepting the donation.*

REMEMBERING THE ANZACS



Sacred soil from the Victory Memorial Gardens in Wagga was collected at a special ceremony earlier this year as part of a stunning artwork project to be displayed at the refurbished ANZAC Memorial in Sydney's Hyde Park.

The artwork will display soil collected from 1,699 NSW towns, suburbs and locations where men and women joined up for service in The Great War of 1914-18.

The display in the Hall of Service will also feature a ring set into the floor which also lists 100 sites of significance in the State's military history.

NSW Veterans' Affairs Minister David Elliott MP was in Wagga for the ceremony which included local dignitaries, Defence Force and RSL representatives, and local school children.



ABOVE: Minister for Veterans' Affairs David Elliott MP assists local school students with the collection of the sacred soil from Wagga's Victory Memorial Gardens.

LOCAL ACHIEVERS RECOGNISED

Cricket fans in Wagga are set for a fantastic summer of cricket with two historic Women's Big Bash League matches to be played in the city.

Sydney Thunder and Adelaide Strikers clash on January 20 and 21 2018 at Robertson Oval.

The NSW Government is supporting the Big Bash regional partnership, ensuring local fans have access to the best players. Entry to the games is free.

It was great to also recognise local cricketer Rachel Trenaman for her recent



ABOVE: Sydney Thunder is set to rumble in Wagga in January 2018 when the Women's Big Bash comes to town. Pictured with Wagga cricketer Rachel Trenaman, Mayor Greg Conkey and Thunder general manager Lee Germon.

achievements in the sport.

Rachel has been promoted to the full

squad after being Sydney Thunder's ACT and Regional Rookie last season.

TAFE NSW Primary Industries Centre (PIC) student Georgia Reeves is a wool "class act".

Georgia is studying a Certificate IV in Wool Classing at the PIC and earlier this year won the 2017 National Graduate Wool Classing competition.

It was a great pleasure to recently present Georgia with the highly regarded DAS Campbell Prize.

This region is inextricably tied to agriculture and it's critical we continue to develop and nurture the next generation of



ABOVE: Congratulating local wool classer Georgia Reeves on her achievements in this important agricultural industry.

leaders in agriculture. Georgia should be very proud and the

dedicated teachers and staff at the PIC should be equally proud.

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

The Leisure Company has been recognised for its successful transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and ongoing excellence in providing support for people with a disability in the Riverina.

The Leisure Company is a non-profit organisation providing recreation, work, and life-skill opportunities for people with a disability from Wagga and surrounding areas.

The Leisure Company is committed to the local community and is to be commended for embracing the NDIS.

It has grown considerably since 1990 and now provides services to more than 165 people with a disability. The NDIS is being implemented across NSW and will provide people with disability choice and control over their supports.



PICTURED: NSW Minister for Disability Services Ray Williams MP visited Wagga earlier this year and praised The Leisure Company for its successful transition to the NDIS.

The final stage of the \$55 million Kapooka Bridge upgrade was completed in August with the removal of the old bridge structure.

The new Kapooka Bridge opened in June last year on a new alignment along the Olympic Highway, a few hundred metres from the 1880-built old bridge. The project is part of the Bridges for the Bush program.

The new bridge offers significant road safety benefits and improvements to freight efficiency on what was the only remaining load-constrained bridge on the Olympic Highway.

It is a taller, wider and longer structure and vehicles do not need to travel along a dangerous dog leg on the approaches. Close to 1.5 million vehicles use Kapooka Bridge each year and about 215,000 are freight trucks.

BELOW: Heavy machinery moves in to start work on removing the old Kapooka Bridge in August.



A MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY



Greater emphasis is now being placed on teaching local people water safety with a focus on swimming skills.

The NSW Government last month announced a \$173,684 Water Safety Fund Community Grant to help community members learn to swim and improve their skills around water.

The Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga was successful in its application for the “Learn To Swim Safe Today, Don’t Let The Chance Float Away” program.

It will engage members from refugee,

migrant and international student populations in the Riverina on a range of initiatives to build knowledge and skills. This includes how to identify potential dangers and respond in emergency situations.

All participants will also undertake CPR training and engage in river safety information sessions delivered by the Royal Life Saving Society.

PICTURED: Announcing NSW Government water safety funding with (from left) Wagga Mayor Greg Conkey, Momtaz Naderali, Jackline Okot, Ameen Silo, community development officer Thom Paton and Vicky Okot.

The Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga is giving a local voice to people from culturally diverse backgrounds through a variety of programs and partnerships.

Minister for Multiculturalism Ray Williams MP spoke with council members and also representatives of the Multicultural NSW Riverina Regional Advisory Council (RAC) in September.

The RAC focuses on areas important to the community, including service co-ordination and creating opportunities for multicultural youth.

The Riverina RAC meets quarterly to discuss issues around cultural diversity to and to report to the NSW Government.



ABOVE: Introducing Constance Okot, who fled war-torn Sudan many years ago, to NSW Minister for Multiculturalism, Ray Williams MP, during a visit to Wagga. The Multicultural Council in Wagga has been praised for its work in helping refugee families settle in the city.

FACILITIES FUNDING ON TARGET

Construction has started on the new Australian Clay Target Association function centre in Wagga.

The NSW Government has provided \$5.5 million towards the \$7 million project and Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres visited the site in August to confirm the ongoing commitment to the ACTA headquarters.

The Centre will benefit more than just the ACTA because it will be a multi-purpose facility.

It will double the amenities available at the current headquarters and with all the space available at the site it will be used by the greater community.

The Centre will unlock a host of new sports and conferencing event opportunities for the region.

It can accommodate up to 650 people for a dining function and 1,200 people for a conference.



ABOVE: Inspecting the site of a new function centre at the Australian Clay Target Association headquarters in Wagga with (from left) ACTA president Robert Nugent, ACTA executive officer Tony Turner and Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres MP.

Construction and various upgrades will be completed in time for the International Clay Target Shooting Federation World DTL Championships to be held in Wagga in 2018. The event is set to attract around 800 shooters.

Wagga's Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) branch has received funding towards creating a safer environment for members at the Big Springs Range near Wagga.

The NSW Government has committed \$10,400 to help build an enclosed area to safely clean firearms.

Gun safety is a huge priority of the

NSW Government and those who enjoy shooting recreationally at the Wagga range will soon be able to clean their equipment and reload without putting others at risk.

Currently shooters have to re-load their firearms directly behind the firing line and use the clubhouse as a cleaning zone. This creates tripping hazards for shooters and supervision problems for range officers behind the line.



PICTURED: Joining local sporting shooters (from left) Carlos Zuliani, Barry Tucker, David Wade, Gil Mathew, Rob Baird, John Buik, Don Ewin, Frank Cohn and John Butts to announce funding for improvements at the Big Springs range.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

Tourism and business opportunities in Tumut, Lockhart and Wagga districts are set to increase under the NSW Government's new Destination Networks structure which put more focus on rural and regional NSW.

Destination Riverina Murray, which has replaced the former Riverina Regional Tourism, is a dedicated tourism body set up to drive growth and success in the sector.

Tourists are spending more money in rural and regional NSW than ever before.

In 2016 NSW welcomed 29.3 million domestic overnight visitors of which more than 70 per cent visited regional NSW according to the National Visitor Survey.

The NSW Government is spending \$43 million over four years in an effort to double visitation to the State.



ABOVE: Congratulating Destination Riverina Murray's new general manager Richie Robinson, and chair of the peak tourism body Genevieve Fleming earlier this year. Destination Riverina Murray's headquarters is based in Wagga at the Tourist Information Centre in Tarcutta Street.

BELOW: Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres MP (centre) was in Wagga recently to check out local sporting facilities and took the opportunity to open the new on-course toilet facility at Wagga Country Club. The amenities block was made available through a NSW Government \$21,000 Community Building Partnership grant.



Best wishes for a safe and happy festive season



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