Premier Kristina Keneally today announced $179 million in infrastructure funding – including for roads, sewage treatment works and water supply pipelines - to deliver new housing, employment land and jobs in local communities across NSW.

Ms Keneally announced the Local Infrastructure Fund at Edmondson Park, which will benefit from a $10,400,000 loan for the Jardine Drive Detention Basin.

In total, the funding injection will be directed toward 37 projects in 33 council areas.

The interest-free loans will fund roads, business parks, sewerage treatment services, a recycled water facility and other infrastructure for housing release areas.

“This funding is designed to serve dual purposes: providing an economic stimulus, and providing infrastructure for NSW’s growing number of homes,” Ms Keneally said.

“We are directing the funding at areas that will grow in population, with a specific focus on fast-tracking projects that will stimulate urban development and local jobs.

“This is a practical and immediate step the State Government is taking to help councils respond to their changing communities.”

Local infrastructure projects which will be brought forward by the funding include:

- **$26,050,000 for the West Dapto Access Strategy**, which will provide infrastructure that supports new housing areas for release in West Dapto;

- **$16,825,000 for the Banora Point Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade in the Tweed**, which will service the expected increase in population in Tweed Heads and Banora Point (this project was recently announced by the Premier on a visit to the far north coast);

- **$12,750,000 to upgrade Nambucca Heads sewerage treatment plant and pump stations**, which will improve local sewerage services for future housing and population growth in the Nambucca Valley.

- **$11,800,000 for the upgrade of Lodges Road and Hilder Street in Camden** from rural to urban standard, providing access to the new Elderslie and Spring Farm urban development areas;

- **$10,400,000 for the Jardine Drive Detention Basin in Liverpool**, which will bring forward the development of the Edmondson Park housing release area;

- **$8,690,000 to upgrade Bateman’s Bay sewerage treatment plant**, to provide services for the Surf Beach Employment Lands Business Park in Eurobodalla;
• $7,959,000 to provide water supply pipelines for the urban release area at Lake Cathie / Bonny Hills in Port Macquarie Hastings Shire, which could accommodate around 9,900 people in the Rainbow Beach area; and

• $7,500,000 towards recycled water services in Ballina and Lennox Heads, to service new subdivisions.

Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, said these loans will help councils get projects off the ground, and will have the added bonus of stimulating local jobs.

“Today’s announcement is an important step toward making sure we have the infrastructure required for NSW’s growing population,” Mr Kelly said.

Under the terms of the loans, it is expected that each project will be completed within 18 months of the loan being issued, and the loan will be repaid within ten years.

Where applicable, projects granted interest free loans will still be subject to separate planning approvals.

Applications for funding were assessed by an independently-chaired panel against a strict set of criteria including:

• Council or their contractors having the ability to deliver the project within 18 months of funding being provided;
• Council or their contractors having the capacity to deliver in terms of resources, effective project management and financial administration;
• The project being essential to urban development;
• The project being value for money; and
• That the project would be accelerated because of the funding.

Mr Kelly said the terms of the loans will be agreed between the Department of Planning and councils.

A full list of the projects which will be funded under the Local Infrastructure Fund is available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au