Premier Kristina Keneally today announced Village Roadshow has chosen Sydney for a proposed major new international water theme park – Wet ‘n’ Wild Sydney.

The proposal for the $80 million, 25-hectare water park includes world-first action slides and Australia’s biggest man-made beach and wave-pool.

The proposal represents the biggest, newest and best attraction of its kind in Australia.

Subject to planning approval, Wet ‘n’ Wild Sydney would be built by Australia’s successful entertainment and theme park company, Village Roadshow.

Village Roadshow expects to immediately begin preparations to lodge a Major Project Application with the Department of Planning, who would assess the proposed development on its merits under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

If approved, Village Roadshow expects construction to start next year, and for the theme park to open in time for the summer of 2013.

The NSW Government, through Industry and Investment NSW, worked with Village Roadshow to secure their decision to make this investment in Sydney.

An independent economic impact assessment, commissioned by Village Roadshow, concluded that the theme park would:

- Support more than 300 local full-time jobs during construction;
- Support more than 278 jobs once operational;
- Bring more than $340 million in tourism expenditure to Sydney during the first 10 years of operations;
- Contribute more than $500 million to the NSW economy during the first 10 years of operations; and
- Attract 900,000 people every year – including 175,000 international and interstate visitors.

The proposed location for Wet ‘n’ Wild Sydney is Reservoir Road, Prospect, close to the M4 and M7 motorways.

About 1.2 million residents live within a 20-kilometre radius of the site, and 3.3 million people live within a 40-kilometre radius.

Premier Keneally made the announcement today with Minister for Western Sydney, David Borger, and Village Roadshow Theme Parks Chief Executive, Tim Fisher.

“Wet ‘n’ Wild Sydney would be a world-class water park that puts Sydney on the international theme park map,” Ms Keneally said.

“The state-of-the-art theme park would provide cutting edge rides, thrilling water sport venues, and hours of family fun.”
Village Roadshow Theme Parks Chief Executive, Tim Fisher, said Wet ‘n’ Wild Sydney would be a magnet for tourists and investment.

“Wet ‘n’ Wild would bring world class theme park thrills and excitement to Sydney for the first time, and would be a landmark destination for all ages,” Mr Fisher said.

“Wet ‘n’ Wild is the world’s number one water park brand and would be a compelling addition to Sydney’s tourism offering.”

“Wet ‘n’ Wild Sydney would be the jewel in the nation’s theme park crown, and would likely become one of the world’s top ten water parks in the first few years of operation.”

Village Roadshow has more than 30 years experience operating theme parks and major attractions. Wet ‘n’ Wild Sydney is likely to include:

- Australia’s largest wave pool
- Duelling Water Coasters
- Speed slides
- Adventure River
- Toddler pool and interactive water play zone

The Australia-based company owns Gold Coast theme parks including Wet ‘n’ Wild, Sea World and Warner Bros. Movie World as well as Sydney tourist attractions such as Sydney Wildlife World, Sydney Aquarium, Sydney Tower and Oceanworld Manly.

Mr Borger said the project would be great for jobs and great for the economy.

“This project would deliver an injection of jobs, economic investment and fun into Sydney,” Mr Borger said.

“We have worked hard to encourage Wet ‘n’ Wild to come to Sydney: and the announcement today is great news for the economy and NSW families.

“More than four million people live within 50 minutes drive of the site identified for Wet ‘n’ Wild Sydney.

“This new attraction would draw people to Western Sydney for years to come. This is fantastic news for families, businesses and the broader community.”

**Background notes**

- Village Roadshow have signed an agreement to lease the Prospect site from the NSW Government.
- Preparations to lodge a Major Project Application with the Department of Planning will begin immediately. Village Roadshow expects to lodge their application as soon as possible.
- The project will be considered as a Major Project under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*, because the proposed location for the park is within Western Sydney Parklands. (The NSW Government is the consent authority under the Western Sydney Parklands SEPP for developments valued at more than $30 million). The proposal will be put on public exhibition for comment as part of the merit-based assessment process.
- As part of its planning application, Village Roadshow will propose international best practice water conservation technology, extensive water recycling, preserving local biodiversity and minimising impact on the local environment will be a priority of the new development.
- Also as part of its planning application, Village Roadshow will propose to contribute $5.2 million towards the upgrading of road infrastructure in the vicinity of the park. These works will be the subject of an RTA study, funded by Village Roadshow, and would be completed prior to the opening of the park.
- Subject to planning approval, Village Roadshow expects to open the park in the summer of 2013.