MEDIA RELEASE

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DELIVERING INFRASTRUCTURE TO DRIVE JOBS GROWTH

The NSW Government today unveiled plans for the State’s largest employment zone in Western Sydney – made possible by key infrastructure projects funded in this year’s Budget.

NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney Barry O’Farrell and Treasurer Mike Baird today inspected the soon-to-be-completed Erskine Park Link Road – an election commitment and key arterial road unlocking thousands of hectares of employment lands in Western Sydney. Also present were local Liberal MPs Andrew Rohan (Smithfield), Tanya Davies (Mulgoa), Stuart Ayres (Penrith) and Bart Bassett (Londonderry).

This year’s Budget also includes a $70 million commitment to upgrade Old Wallgrove Road which will connect Erskine Park Link Road with the M7.

The NSW Government is building on these commitments by today announcing plans to expand the existing Western Sydney Employment Area from 2,200 hectares to more than 10,000 hectares.

“This year’s Budget secures the future for NSW – today we can see first-hand how some of the Budget’s key initiatives are unlocking job opportunities in Western Sydney,” Mr O’Farrell said.

“Erskine Park Link Road and the Old Wallgrove Road upgrade are two of the most important road projects in NSW because they are directly unlocking land for employment in Western Sydney.

“I’m delighted that after years of delays under Labor, it’s a NSW Liberals & Nationals Government that is delivering these vital Western Sydney road projects.

“Today we release plans for a greatly expanded Broader Western Sydney Employment Area – it will be the largest employment space in NSW and one of the most important employment zones in the country.

“This dedicated employment area will allow hundreds more companies to move their businesses to Western Sydney, creating tens of thousands of jobs.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is getting on with the job of ensuring this region reaches its potential and delivering the infrastructure to make it happen.”

Mr Baird said the Budget continues the NSW Government’s focus on delivering the infrastructure communities across NSW need.
“The three themes of yesterday’s Budget were jobs, housing and infrastructure,” Mr Baird said.

“This project ticks all those boxes.

“We are accelerating the delivery of vital infrastructure to support the release of tens of thousands of new housing lots across the State, including in outer Wester Sydney.

“The Broader Western Sydney Employment area will give breadwinners in those new housing areas access to employment without having to commute all the way across Sydney.

“These are things the Government has been able to do in the 2013-14 Budget because we have taken the hard decisions to put the State’s finances on a sustainable basis.”

The Broader Western Sydney Employment Area (WSEA) is a 20 kilometre-long zone running from the intersection of the M4 and M7 motorways at Eastern Creek through to Bringelly. The draft structure plan released today identifies 6,329 hectares of new land for employment uses, on top of 1,750 hectares of existing zoned employment land.

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard said the plan has the potential to deliver 57,000 new jobs over 30 years in Sydney’s population heartland.

“This is a city-changing plan - transforming 10,000 hectares into a major employment zone and driving jobs growth in Western Sydney,” Mr Hazzard said.

“This is the ideal location to address the employment imbalance in Sydney. It will help deliver 50 per cent of Sydney’s future employment growth to Western Sydney as outlined in our draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney.

“This is about jobs close to home for the people of Western Sydney.”

The Broader WSEA will open the door to critical sectors including freight, logistics, research and development and industry, while also providing space for higher density employment opportunities.

Space will also be set aside in the area for environmental protection and new infrastructure, along with buffer areas for nearby residential communities.

The Erskine Park Link Road project, commenced by the NSW Government in 2011, is a 3.1-kilometre four lane divided road between Lenore Lane, Erskine Park and Old Wallgrove Road, Eastern Creek and includes an 80-metre bridge with two lanes in each direction across Ropes Creek, three intersections, major earthwork, drainage and road surfacing work.

For more information go to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/wsea

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