



Mike Baird MP

NSW Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW CONSUMERS MOST OPTIMISTIC IN THE NATION

NSW consumers are now the most optimistic in the nation, according to the release of the latest Westpac-Melbourne Institute NSW Consumer Sentiment Index.

NSW Treasurer Mike Baird welcomed the news, which showed the NSW Consumer Sentiment Index jumped by 7.7 per cent to 114.2 in November, and reached a three year high.

“This is an incredibly strong result, which shows NSW consumers are now the most optimistic in the country,” said Mr Baird.

“This provides more good news for the NSW economy, which continues to move from strength to strength under the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government, after many years of decline under NSW Labor.

“Today’s figures continue a positive trend, as consumer confidence in NSW has been above its decade average for the past five months.

“While difficult global economic conditions remain a concern, it’s clear that the combination of growth in the NSW housing sector, a new federal government and low interest rates are having a positive impact on the people of NSW.

“We are confident that today’s result, together with the recent boost in jobs in NSW, will flow through to retail sales and household spending to further stimulate our economy.

“The NSW Government will continue to pursue policies that encourage jobs growth and economic activity across the state. Our Jobs Action Plan, together with the government’s large-scale infrastructure program, and the growing level of housing construction across the state will do exactly that,” said Mr Baird.

NSW economy is performing markedly better on a number of measures including:

- **Economic growth** – in the June quarter 2013, NSW had the second strongest annual growth of all the States.
- **Jobs** – an additional 3,800 jobs were created in NSW in the previous month. NSW holds the second lowest unemployment rate in nation, alongside Victoria and Queensland. Under the NSW Government, **over 94,000 more jobs have been created in NSW.**
- **Housing** – NSW posted its highest number of new home approvals in 11 years, with over 5,000 NSW homes approved in September 2013.

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