



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 21 June 2011

RESTART NSW ESTABLISHED TO FUND VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Treasurer Mike Baird today announced legislation would be introduced to Parliament to establish the NSW Government's Infrastructure Fund, Restart NSW – delivering on another key election commitment.

Mr O'Farrell said Restart NSW would fund a range of future NSW infrastructure projects with 30 per cent reserved for projects in regional areas.

“My Government is determined to build the infrastructure that the people of NSW have been denied for so long,” Mr O'Farrell said.

“Restart NSW is a key component of our 100 day plan – we are getting on with the job of funding vital infrastructure projects like public transport, road improvements to reduce congestion, water utilities, freight and hospital upgrades.”

Restart NSW will be funded from windfall State tax revenue allocated through the Budget process and other funds such as the proceeds of issuing Waratah Bonds.

It is also the intention to use funds from the proceeds of the proposed desalination plant transaction to boost Restart NSW.

Mr Baird said any borrowings, including those from Waratah Bonds, will be done in a sensible manner which does not put the State's AAA credit rating at risk.

“Infrastructure NSW will determine the priorities for how the funds are spent with 30 per cent of the fund to be reserved for projects in regional areas,” Mr Baird said.

“The Auditor General will report to Parliament annually to ensure all funds are invested properly - in line with Restart NSW's mandate.”

“My Government is determined to address the previous Labor Government's legacy of 16 years of neglect,” Mr O'Farrell said.

“No Government in the country's history did less in terms of building infrastructure than the previous Labor Government.

“They promised no less than 12 new rail lines, seven in Western Sydney, and failed to deliver one of them.

“The approach of the NSW Liberals & Nationals could not be any more different

“Unlike Labor – who ploughed all their money into projects for their mates – we will leave it to Infrastructure NSW to determine the priorities for how the funds from Restart NSW are spent.

“In other words, an independent body - without any obligation to do favours - will ensure the funds are allocated where they are needed most.”

“Restart NSW will enable us to prioritise NSW’s essential infrastructure in a fiscally responsible way,” Mr Baird said.

“Funding contributions to Restart NSW will be invested into a dedicated interest earning account established by NSW Treasury Corporation, with interest revenue reinvested into Restart NSW.

“Projects to be funded by Restart NSW will be considered as part of a detailed 5 year Infrastructure Plan and 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy, with Infrastructure NSW to make recommendations as to which projects will be funded.”

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