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MEDIA RELEASE

NSW economic stimulus measure works: \$419 million in property sales through 50% stamp duty cut for new dwellings

NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal today announced 955 dwellings totalling more than \$419 million in value have been sold in NSW under the Housing Construction Acceleration Plan – a State economic stimulus measure.

The plan, announced in this year's NSW Budget as an economic stimulus measure, came into effect on July 1 – when the NSW Government cut stamp duty by 50 per cent on newly-constructed dwellings up to \$600,000.

"This economic stimulus measure is working," Mr Roozendaal told the NSW Parliament today.

"We have put \$7.3 million worth of stamp duty back into people's pockets (as at October 25). More importantly, that's \$419 million worth of job-supporting construction activity, helping provide jobs for builders, plumbers architects and more.

The economic stimulus measure is due to end on December 31, 2009.

"This is all good news for the NSW economy – we are seeing the green shoots of recovery growing," Mr Roozendaal said.

"The private residential housing sector is worth around \$17.8 billion to the NSW economy every year and accounts for about 5 per cent of the state economy."

Mr Roozendaal told the NSW Parliament that latest figures show NSW first home buyers have set another impressive first, with more than \$150 million in first home buyer benefits handed out in September this year.

The top five suburbs for first home buyer grants are all in western Sydney, with Liverpool heading the list – \$3.3 million worth of benefits to 129 first home buyers.

"These benefits helped more than 6000 NSW first home buyers achieve the great Australian dream in September this year alone," Mr Roozendaal said.

"September 2009 was the best-performing month of September since the first home buyer grants benefits began in 2000.

"We're getting more young families into their first homes than ever before and helping them get on with establishing their lives. The government boosts to first home buyer grants are proving a major economic stimulus."

Since the introduction of first home buyer grants in July 2000, more than 428,000 first home buyers have received grants and stamp duty exemptions worth in excess of \$6.4 billion.

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