



T R E A S U R E R

MEDIA RELEASE

1000th milestone in 50% stamp duty cut – NSW economic stimulus measure works

NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal today announced more than 1000 new dwellings worth more than \$445 million have been sold in NSW under the Housing Construction Acceleration Plan – a State economic stimulus measure.

Mr Roozendaal also reminded families attending this weekend's Sydney Home Buyer Show of the major benefits available to them from the NSW Government – including a 50 per cent cut to stamp duty if they buy a newly-constructed home worth under \$600,000.

“This weekend's home buyer show is a major event and will help many families achieve the great Australian dream of owning their own home.

“Families attending the Darling Harbour show shouldn't forget there are many benefits available to NSW home buyers – including first home buyers and investors,” Mr Roozendaal said.

The Housing Construction Acceleration Plan was announced in this year's NSW Budget and came into effect on July 1 – when the NSW Government cut stamp duty by 50 per cent on newly-constructed dwellings worth up to \$600,000.

“This economic stimulus measure is working – and it has reached a major milestone with 1015 homebuyers, including investors, receiving a 50 per cent stamp duty cut on their purchases,” Mr Roozendaal said.

“We have put \$7.8 million worth of stamp duty back into people's pockets (as at October 29).

“More importantly, that's \$445 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.

“Owning a home is an investment in a better future and is part of the great Australian dream.”

Mr Roozendaal said benefits of up to \$34,990 are currently available for NSW first home buyers who purchase a newly-constructed home; and up to \$28,490 for an existing home.

He said NSW first home buyers recently set another impressive first, with more than \$150 million in first home buyer benefits provided in September this year alone.

“September 2009 was the best performing month of September since the first home buyer grants benefits began in 2000,” Mr Roozendaal said.

“These benefits helped more than 6,000 NSW first home buyers achieve their dream in September this year alone.

Figures from the NSW Office of State Revenue show:

- 6,079 first home buyer grants worth \$92.98 million were paid out in September 2009, compared to 3,740 grants worth \$26.18 million paid out in September 2008;
- Stamp duty concessions worth \$57.71 million were granted in September, compared to \$33.76 million worth of concessions in September 2008;
- The top five suburbs for grants were all in western Sydney, with first home buyers in Liverpool again topping the list and receiving benefits worth \$3.32 million

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.

Further details on first home owner grants and the 50 per cent stamp duty cut are available at: www.homebuyer.nsw.gov.au