

Western Sydney Budget Statement

2000-01



New South Wales

FOREWORD

This year the NSW Government delivers another record level of funding for Western Sydney. We are increasing our spending to Western Sydney in 2000-2001 to more than \$4 billion to support families and communities, stimulate jobs and investment, and help make the region's environment cleaner.

Western Sydney is made up of 14 Local Council areas, 1.7 million people and 72,000 firms, and is growing rapidly. Businesses, Local Councils, community organisations and the State Government need to keep working together if this growth is to be sustainable and benefit all people in the region.

The State Government is doing its part. This Budget funds education, health, police and other government services. The Government continues its job-creating investments in economic and social infrastructure, and training to address the skill shortages in the region. And we continue to assist Local Councils, communities and industry to improve the region's environment.

Highlights of expenditure on capital and recurrent programs in this year's Western Sydney Budget Statement include:

- ◆ \$1.7 billion for Western Sydney schools and TAFE Colleges
- ◆ \$1.2 billion for new and ongoing health services in the region
- ◆ \$290 million on Western Sydney public transport and roads
- ◆ \$261 million for housing, family, child and community support services
- ◆ \$218 million for police and public safety in Western Sydney, and
- ◆ \$121 million for regional Parks, water, waste and other environmental initiatives.

I am delighted to present, on behalf of the State Government, the 2000-2001 Western Sydney Budget Statement.

The Statement shows that we will continue to work in partnership with business, Local Councils and communities to make Western Sydney a stronger, fairer and more dynamic region.



Kim Yeadon MP
Minister for Western Sydney
Member for Granville

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The New South Wales Government has a strong focus on Western Sydney. It has a strategic approach to policy and programs for the West and is working in partnership with business, industry, Local Government, the community and key regional groups to improve business, and the quality of life for people living and working in this dynamic region.

Western Sydney covers 14 local government areas over some 8,000 square kilometres. It encompasses the local government areas of Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith and Wollondilly.

The Statement is not a description of every Government initiative which will impact on Western Sydney in 2000-2001, nor is it a complete list of the programs or funding which will be delivered in the region. Rather, it provides an outline of the key programs and priorities for Western Sydney in the coming financial year. Funding allocations specifically to be spent in Western Sydney are indicated in bold type.

The objectives of the Statement are to provide a picture of key Government programs in Western Sydney and to assist Government agencies and the people of Western Sydney to assess program and service priorities across the region.

Office of
Western
Sydney

Western Sydney
by Local Council Area



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Kilometres

CHAPTER 2: MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

In 1997, the Government appointed a Minister for Western Sydney and established an Office of Western Sydney. The Office of Western Sydney works with businesses, industry associations, the three levels of Government, the University of Western Sydney, community organisations and other key institutions within and outside Western Sydney as part of a coherent strategy to assist the economic, social and environmental development of the region. The Office reports to the Minister for Western Sydney and forms part of the New South Wales Department of Information Technology and Management. The Government will fund the **operations of the Office of Western Sydney** to the extent of **\$1.4 million** in 2000-2001. The Office is located on the Westmead Campus of the University of Western Sydney and in the Macarthur area at Campbelltown.

The Office of Western Sydney is a dynamic, innovative government agency providing regional leadership across Western Sydney. The key roles of the Office of Western Sydney are to achieve significant improvements in the economic performance, social development and urban livability of Western Sydney. The Office provides strategic advice to Government on Western Sydney issues. It works with business, local government, State government agencies and other key organisations to secure jobs and investment, support families and communities, protect the environment, and deliver better government services. Initiatives of the Office of Western Sydney for 2000-2001 include:

- ◆ The *Western Sydney Jobs Plan* brings together Government agencies including the Departments of State and Regional Development, Urban Affairs and Planning, Industrial Relations, Education and Training, NSW Tourism and the Office of Western Sydney. The plan aims to bring sustainable, quality jobs to the region by: creating partnerships with industry to stimulate investment and employment opportunities; assisting business by cutting red tape; delivering better urban planning and infrastructure; promoting innovation; and expanding education and training opportunities.
- ◆ The *Western Sydney Industry Awards* are an outstanding example of State Government-business collaboration. The Awards target industries which are critical to the growth and economic development of Western Sydney. They focus on innovation, Information Technology and export performance - all key drivers of growth in advanced economies - to generate jobs and investment in Western Sydney. The inaugural Awards were held in 1999.
- ◆ *Corporate Partners for Change* was specifically designed to help unemployed young people into work by linking training and jobs. This initiative is supported by major industry and business associations, which offer jobs, traineeships and apprenticeships to young people in Western Sydney. Corporate Partners for Change was developed by the Office of Western Sydney with funding by the Department of Education and Training. The Office of Western Sydney works with firms to develop accredited pre-vocational training courses tailored to meet industry needs. In return, young people are trained in accredited pre-vocational training.

- ◆ **Information Technology Initiatives.** As a result of a conference titled *Advancing Information Technology in Western Sydney Industry*, organised by the Office of Western Sydney in November 1999, a number of IT initiatives for the region are proceeding. These are:
 - **IT Forum with Western Sydney Local Councils.** The Forum, to be held in July 2000, is the first IT Forum of local councils in Australia that is strategically targeted to accelerating the IT agenda at a regional level. The Forum will aim to: enhance Councils' understanding of the strategic directions in IT in government and industry; explore best practice models for IT application in Councils, such as e-commerce/electronic service delivery/integrated land and property information, leading to improved levels of service delivery; and investigate opportunities to progress some aspects of the IT agenda in a collaborative way.
 - **Development of an IT Directory for Western Sydney.** The Directory will showcase/promote Western Sydney IT businesses and skills providers and encourage other businesses, both within and outside Western Sydney, to use their products and services.
 - **Technology Diffusion.** A pilot regional program, bringing together 10 to 15 leading edge manufacturing businesses with major IT companies will explore the potential for increased integration of IT into corporate strategy and business operations to enhance global competitiveness.
 - **Establishment of an IT Cluster of Western Sydney IT businesses.** This will enable synergies/partnerships/joint ventures to develop between IT businesses in the region. It will also act as a focal point for Western Sydney small to medium sized IT businesses, to identify those government agencies, venture capitalists/businesses and major IT companies who could play a role in helping the IT sector to grow.
- ◆ The **Environment Strategy for Western Sydney** was launched by the Minister for Western Sydney in November 1999 at Campbelltown. It was developed in collaboration with the University of Western Sydney, the Environment Protection Authority, TeamWest and key government, community and industry stakeholders. It provides an integrated approach to the region's environment and helps maximise the effectiveness of existing programs and encourages government, industry, researchers and the community to work together for the good of the environment in Western Sydney.
- ◆ The **Western Sydney Arts Strategy** was launched by the Minister for Western Sydney in November 1999 at Campbelltown. This is a joint initiative with the NSW Ministry for the Arts. The Strategy sets out priorities for the next three to five years to capitalise on the existing extensive cultural activity in Western Sydney, to build on increases already made in government support, and achieve a more equitable distribution of resources and energy across the region while giving expression to local differences. Some \$1.4 million is committed to the strategy over three years.
- ◆ **Initiatives for Women in Western Sydney.** In 1999, the Government established the Initiatives for Women Project in Western Sydney, a joint venture between the Office of Western Sydney and the Department for Women to improve opportunities for women.
- ◆ **Other Initiatives** include the development of the NSW Government Response to the TeamWest Greater Western Sydney Regional Agenda; the preparation of the Western Sydney Budget Statement; and the production of the Government's Progress Report on its pre-election commitments on Western Sydney.

Further details of the Office of Western Sydney initiatives are available on the *website* www.westernsydney.nsw.gov.au

CHAPTER 3: FUNDING FOR WESTERN SYDNEY FOR 2000-01

The New South Wales Government initiatives for Western Sydney are presented in sections focusing on four key priority areas for the region:

- ◆ securing jobs and investment;
- ◆ supporting families and communities;
- ◆ protecting the environment; and
- ◆ better Government services.

The initiatives outlined provide an indicative rather than an exhaustive list of all programs and expenditure which will impact on Western Sydney in 2000-2001.

3.1 SECURING JOBS AND INVESTMENT IN WESTERN SYDNEY

The health of the New South Wales economy is based on a large part on the vitality of the Western Sydney economy. Western Sydney is one of the nation's economic powerhouses and is home to more than 1.7 million people and 72,000 businesses that produce goods and services worth around \$54 billion annually. If Western Sydney were a separate region, it would be the third largest regional economy in Australia outside the rest of Sydney and Melbourne. It is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Nationally, nearly one-in-ten Australians live in the region. Around one-third of the region's population is under 19 years of age. It has a strong representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and a large proportion of people from a non-English speaking background. One of the region's strengths is its flexible, skilled multi-cultural workforce.

The need for an increased availability of jobs for the people of Western Sydney, especially its young people, is of paramount importance to the Government. Latest figures indicate that since March 1995, employment growth in the region has been strong through the generation of more than 166,000 new jobs - up 32 per cent from 514,000 to some 680,000 today. These jobs are in a broad range of industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, tourism, retail, finance and business services. The Government is also attracting new and emerging industries to Western Sydney by encouraging innovation, through initiatives such as the Western Sydney Industry Awards. These industry sectors include biotechnology, telecommunications, medical research, high technology, waste management and agribusiness.

The Government's Western Sydney Jobs Plan is a whole of government approach to investment, infrastructure, innovation and training. Some of the core components of the plan are: the Central Western Sydney Economic and Employment Area which will generate more than 11,000 jobs and investment in the Blacktown, Holroyd and Fairfield areas; implementing the Parramatta Regional Environmental Plan to create some 35,000 jobs over 20 years; and meeting the current and future skills needs of commerce and industry in Western Sydney by better linking business labour market needs into the planning of major training bodies.

The State Government continues to directly assist employment by the location of its agencies in Western Sydney. Agencies with head offices in the region are the Department of Fair Trading, Landcom, the Office of State Revenue, the Heritage Office, the Aboriginal Housing Office and the Home Care Service of NSW (Parramatta), the NSW Rural Fire Service (Rose Hill), the Department of Housing (Liverpool), the Department of Local Government (Bankstown) and Integral Energy (Blacktown). The Government plans to relocate the Department of Sport and Recreation's Head Office and Sports House to Homebush Bay to consolidate the Olympic precinct as the 'home of sport' in New South Wales. In addition, more than 80 Sydney Catchment Authority staff are now located at the Penrith office. These significant employment bases generate additional work opportunities for other businesses in the communities and stimulate additional economic growth for the region.

State Government local offices located in Western Sydney to assist business in the region include NSW Agriculture, the Department of Community Services, the Department of State and Regional Development, the Roads and Traffic Authority, WorkCover, TAFE, the Department of Industrial Relations and the Department of Transport.

The development rate of tourism infrastructure projects in Western Sydney is among the most impressive in Australia, with more than \$1 billion worth of new or improved tourism facilities approved or developed in the last year. These major projects, which include new international hotels and recreational facilities at Campbelltown, Liverpool, Penrith, Baulkham Hills, Homebush Bay, Bankstown and Rosehill, signal that the \$1.7 billion a year regional tourism market is only now starting to reach its potential. The Western Sydney tourism industry currently generates 34,000 jobs. The world's attention on the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics, together with a strong promotion by Tourism NSW on Western Sydney tourism, will ensure an industry growth of 43 per cent and a labour market growth of 50 per cent between 1999 and 2005.

Details of the Olympic Budget are outlined in chapter 4 of this Statement. Significant employment and investment opportunities continue to be secured for Western Sydney through Olympic and Paralympic related capital works, transport and major events management initiatives. Over 40,000 workers have been inducted into Olympic construction programs at Homebush Bay. 2,000 contractors have been engaged, including 200 firms from regional NSW. The home of the Olympics has grown from a construction site to a major leisure, tourism and business destination. The number of visitors to Sydney's Olympic venues at Homebush Bay and Penrith Lakes is about to top 20 million since Sydney's successfully bid for the Games in September 1993. Homebush Bay is becoming Australia's biggest recreational playground. Of tourists who visit the Homebush Bay Visitors Centre, 30 per cent are from overseas with most coming from Asia and the United States, followed by Europe and New Zealand. The visitors centre at Homebush Bay attracts about 35,000 visitors every month and had its one-millionth visitor in March 2000. This increase in visitor numbers has encouraged a growth in the number of job opportunities. More than a thousand people are now employed on site in permanent and casual working roles other than construction. This is being mirrored throughout Western Sydney as more Olympic venues have opened.

Government programs, initiatives and services for which funding has been allocated in 2000-2001, and which will encourage investment and job creation in Western Sydney are outlined below.

Public Infrastructure

Government funding of **major new and on-going capital infrastructure projects**, complemented by private sector investment, is creating jobs in the region. An average of more than 3,000 jobs per year over four years are being generated in the construction sector by the investment of \$12.1 billion on new infrastructure in Western Sydney for new and upgraded roads and rail, schools, hospitals and police facilities, water and sewer infrastructure and community facilities. The infrastructure includes the implementation of the Action of Transport 2010 plan which will deliver better passenger and freight transport links. Full details of the Government capital works can be found in Budget Paper No. 4. Major capital projects for agencies in 2000-2001 include:

Department of Corrective Services

New and expanded **correctional facilities** are being provided in Western Sydney in 2000-2001, at an estimated cost of **\$40.7 million**. The facilities are: a Periodic Detention Centre and an expanded correctional centre at Parklea; a new correctional centre for women at Windsor; an upgraded facility for female inmates at Emu Plains; and a new Transport Unit at Silverwater.

Department of Education and Training

Over **\$45 million** will be spent on the provision of **major new and refurbished facilities for schools**. New schools will be built at Glenmore Park, Kellyville, Mt Annan, Currans Hill, Harrington Park, Hoxton Park and Wattle Grove. Replacement schools will be constructed at Camden and Quakers Hill. In addition, an estimated **\$29 million** will be expended on school building maintenance.

\$12.1 million will be spent on the development and refurbishment of **TAFE facilities** at Bankstown, Campbelltown, Kingswood, Wetherill Park and Miller.

NSW Fire Brigades

2000-01 will see the finalisation of the \$18 million program to build 12 new fire stations in Western Sydney. The new station at Bonnyrigg Heights will be completed in August 2000 and stations at Cranebrook, Schofields and Horsley Park are to be constructed at a cost of \$1.5 million each. These four facilities will employ approximately 77 new firefighters with an overall annual recurrent expenditure estimated at \$3.7 million. Funds have been provided for the construction of a new station at Glenhaven, subject to the acquisition of a suitable property.

NSW Health

Over **\$64.9 million** is allocated for health related capital works in Western Sydney including facilities at Camden, Campbelltown, the Blue Mountains, Mt Druitt, Penrith and Westmead.

Department of Housing

In 2000-2001, the Government estimates that its expenditure for the **construction or purchase of 287 new public and community housing properties** in Western Sydney for eligible people on low incomes will be **\$28.6 million**. A further **\$26 million** will be allocated for the **completion of properties** commenced in 1999-2000. In addition, the Department will receive **\$62.5 million** for **capital improvements** to 6,600 existing public and community homes. Total expenditure by the Department in Western Sydney will be \$123.7 million.

Landcom

Landcom has entered into discussions with the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning to commit \$23 million over a five year period to the implementation of water, sewer and trunk drainage **infrastructure for the Rouse Hill residential land development**. This contribution represents the catalyst for the development of the area.

Police Service

\$1.4 million will be allocated in capital expenditure by the Police Service in 2000-2001 for new police training facilities at Westmead.

Department of Public Works and Services

The Department is continuing to co-ordinate the Parramatta Government Property Strategy, a whole-of-government asset and accommodation initiative designed to bring about the management, redevelopment and disposal of significant NSW Government land holdings in Parramatta. There are three key government sites in this Strategy, namely the Parramatta Hospital site, the Marsden Rehabilitation Centre and the North Parramatta Mixed Use precinct. The Strategy will move towards implementation and procurement throughout 2000-2001, with the restoration of the Old King's School building and occupation by the NSW Heritage Office. By 2010, the project will have provided 9,000 jobs in construction and allied industries at a value of \$357 million, encompassing archaeology, heritage conservation, office and residential development, cultural facilities, riverfront pedestrian and cycle access, community health and justice services.

Roads and Transport

It is envisaged that more than **\$290 million** will be spent on Western Sydney **roads and public transport infrastructure** in 2000-2001, including:

- ◆ \$75.4 million for the Parramatta-Chatswood Rail Link;
- ◆ \$43.5 million on construction of the Liverpool to Parramatta bus only Transitway;
- ◆ \$9 million for Stage 2 of the Richmond Line amplification;
- ◆ More than \$6 million to improve access to CityRail stations including Fairfield, Regents Park and Katoomba;
- ◆ \$9 million to widen the Great Western Highway at Faulconbridge;
- ◆ \$11 million to widen Old Windsor/Windsor Road from Seven Hills to Kellyville;
- ◆ \$5.3 million to complete a new bridge for the Horsley Drive over the railway at Carramar;

- ◆ More than \$40 million on road maintenance works;
- ◆ More than \$15 million on traffic management works; and
- ◆ More than \$3 million on road safety works.

The Government's commitment to invest an average of \$160 million per annum for roads in Western Sydney and South Western Sydney will continue in 2000-2001.

Government Trading Enterprises and State owned Corporations

The **Sydney Catchment Authority** will continue the \$150 million **Warragamba Dam** major upgrade in 2000-2001 with expenditure in the order of **\$36 million**. The upgrade involves the construction of an auxiliary spillway to divert floodwaters around the dam to allow compliance with international dam safety standards. The major component of the project, involving a \$90 million contract with the private sector, is on schedule for completion by December 2001. It is anticipated that the work will create employment opportunities for up to 175 construction workers.

In February 1997, the Government announced the **Priority Sewerage Program** of the **Sydney Water Corporation**. Under the program 3,400 homes will be connected to sewerage systems in the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment. It is estimated that a total of **\$5.6 million** will be expended in 2000-2001. Environmental Impact Statements were placed on display towards the end of last year for the Menangle/Menangle Park Sewerage Scheme, the Mulgoa, Wallacia, Silverdale Sewerage Scheme and The Oaks/Oakdale and Belimbla Park Sewerage Scheme. Approvals are currently being sought to proceed.

For example, The Oaks/Oakdale and Belimbla Park Sewerage Scheme is a \$26.5 million scheme which will serve approximately 1,000 existing dwellings in the three villages which lie within Sydney's drinking water supply catchment. The target date for completion is 2002. Approximately \$5.2 million will be spent in 2000-2001 on initiatives such as.

- ◆ **Penrith Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)** amplification. The amplification will service planned growth in the Penrith area and will involve substantial additional facilities being built at the STP. The overall project will also include the closure of Glenbrook STP which services the Lower Blue Mountains area. Flows will then be transferred from Glenbrook to the Penrith system at Emu Plains via the disused Glenbrook railway tunnel. These works are due for completion in 2003.
- ◆ Long-term objectives for the **Parramatta River** include no dry weather overflows from sewerage pumping stations and a frequency of wet weather overflows less than 40 events in 10 years. The reduction in overflows will work in conjunction with improvements to stormwater quality to improve the environment. An example is the Interim Infiltration/Exfiltration Program to rehabilitate sewer pipes to reduce dry and wet weather overflows. The program in Parramatta River involves rehabilitation work in nine separate catchments in Homebush Bay and Iron Cove costing approximately \$42 million. The rehabilitation work involves inspection of private sewers to identify illegal connections and grouting and relining of sewer pipes.
- ◆ The \$80 million **Blue Mountains Sewerage Scheme** project is being completed in two separate stages that will see approximately 3,270 lots provided with modern sewerage services. Work on Stage 1 of the scheme is well underway and will be completed by June 2001. The Environmental Impact Statement for the Upper Blue Mountains (Stage 2 of the scheme) was placed on public exhibition in late 1998 and the Representations Report is currently being prepared for submission to the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

Integral Energy has allocated **\$56 million** for **capital projects** to enhance Western Sydney electrical infrastructure in 2000-2001. This State-owned corporation, located in Blacktown, retails and distributes electricity in Sydney's west and beyond to more than 720,000 households and businesses.

State and Regional Development

In 2000-2001, the **Industries Assistance Fund** will continue to provide support for businesses in Western Sydney that are expanding and creating new jobs. The **Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board** will be funded by the Department of State and Regional Development to the extent of **\$200,000** to undertake projects in 2000-2001. The Board will continue to advise the Government on the economic development of Western Sydney. Projects will include the ongoing implementation of the Greater Western Sydney Industry Strategy, Call Centre promotions, maintenance of the Greater Western Sydney website, marketing of the region, maintenance of the Greater Western Sydney Trade and Investment Centre and production of the Quarterly Greater Western Sydney Economic Bulletin. The recommendations of the Import Replacement Analysis, conducted in 1999-2000 in the area of Agriculture, and the sponsorship of the Greater West Games, will also be considered in 2000-2001.

In addition, the Department of State and Regional Development will engage the **Business Enterprise Centres** at Blacktown, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Parramatta and Penrith at a cost of **\$75,000 each** to provide small business services to those areas.

Tourism

The \$13 million facelift for the historic Blue Mountains' town of Katoomba and the Echo Point lookout is proceeding with the Government committed to spending over \$11 million up to 2002-2003. The redevelopment will further enhance Katoomba's tourism opportunities, potentially creating hundreds of new jobs. Up to 1.4 million tourists a year visit Echo Point, making it the most visited tourist site in the State. Tourism is worth about \$339 million to the Blue Mountains, including \$100 million for Echo Point and Katoomba alone. The Blue Mountains City Council will contribute up to \$2 million to the redevelopment.

In 2000-2001 Tourism New South Wales will fund **Western Sydney tourism development** to the extent of **\$330,000**.

Skills Development and Resources

Funding for the **Western and South Western Sydney TAFE Institutes** and the Bankstown, Padstow and Lidcombe colleges within the **Southern Sydney TAFE Institute** will support Institute profiles which reflect industry trends and customer needs. Total operating costs for these three Institutes in Western Sydney are forecast at around **\$252 million** in 2000-2001.

An estimated **\$7 million** will be available to support **Industry Training Programs** in Western Sydney during 2000-2001 through the various programs delivered by the Program Field units within the Department of Education and Training's **Industry Training Services Centres** located at Bankstown, Liverpool and Parramatta. The major roles of the Centres are to promote vocational education and training reform, skills formation, apprenticeships and traineeships, the strengthening of links with industry and the provision of advice on industry training needs.

Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology in the Department of Information Technology and Management coordinates the public sector's management and use of information technology and telecommunications. A number of whole-of-government information and communications technology programs will be conducted in 2000-2001 and will benefit all of New South Wales, including Western Sydney. These include:

- ◆ The **Australian Centre for Advanced Computing and Communications**, a commercial partnership between government, business, universities, and the leaders of the high performance computer industry –IBM, NEC, Silicon Graphics and Sun Microsystems. The centre will provide high performance computing tools to stimulate growth and development in industry, employment, research and education. \$12 million has been allocated over 3 years (from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002) towards the establishment of the Centre with the first phase to be installed by July 2000 at the Australian Technology Park (ATP) in Sydney. High speed communication links between ATP, Newcastle, Wollongong and Bathurst will contain the initial industry nodes of the network followed in the next two years by Western Sydney, Central Coast and New England.
- ◆ The NSW Government's Homepage **ServiceNSW** (<http://www.nsw.gov.au>) provides useful and efficient access to government information and services and encourages the creation of employment and business opportunities. The range of information and services available from ServiceNSW will continue to expand with the focus being on aligning electronically delivered services with community and business needs and providing inter-active services such as the lodgement of forms and payments online. The 2000-2001 costs associated with ServiceNSW are met by individual agencies in developing and enhancing their websites.
- ◆ **Connect.nsw** is a whole of government strategy for the use of Information Technology to streamline internal government practices, reduce costs and improve service delivery for the NSW community. Implementation of *connect.nsw* is providing an integrated approach to the delivery of services over a wide range of service channels including over the counter, the Internet, e-mail and multimedia kiosk and call centres. State-wide funding of \$10 million in 2000-2001 will be used to co-ordinate whole-of-government projects and fund selected agency projects that will deliver enhanced services to the community and business. Key projects include:
 - further development of the NSW Government Homepage www.nsw.gov.au including the delivery of all appropriate services electronically by the end of 2001;
 - continuing the roll-out of the Government Network Service to improve data communications services for agencies and the community; and
 - advancing the take-up of electronic commerce in the public and private sectors.
- ◆ The **Government Radio Network** is one of the largest mobile radio networks in the world, covering 150,000 square kilometres of NSW and processing over 5 million calls per month. The network provides improved radio services to support the delivery of emergency and administrative services to the community, including Western Sydney. \$1.5 million will be spent in 2000-2001 State-wide, to continue the upgrade of the network.

Agriculture

NSW Agriculture's annual budget of \$230 million benefits all of the State. The Department's focus on sustainability, meeting client and customer needs and making the State's agricultural industries more competitive, enriches the lives of all people in New South Wales. The research, advisory, regulatory and resource management activities of the Department benefit the residents and producers in Western Sydney.

NSW Agriculture has four establishments in, or directly servicing, Western Sydney. They are the **Windsor District Office**, the **Richmond Organic Waste Recycling Unit**, the **Elizabeth Macarthur Institute** at Camden (which has a world class reputation as a Centre of Excellence for animal health and production research and diagnostic work) and the **Gosford Research and Advisory Station** (which supports the cut flower industry in Western Sydney). The total budget for these centres is around **\$28 million** per annum. They have a direct effect on Western Sydney by providing employment, supporting primary producers and promoting a sustainable role for agriculture. The industries targeted by these establishments are: stone fruit, cut flowers, nursery, vegetable, dairy, turf, mushroom, horse, poultry and beef cattle.

In May 1998, the Minister for Agriculture released the **Strategic Plan for Sustainable Agriculture in the Sydney Region**, which provides a platform for the sustainable development of agriculture in Western Sydney. Planning is underway to develop a process to co-ordinate the implementation of the plan on a whole-of-government and community partnership basis.

Energy Exploration

The Government has been pursuing a sustained and rigorous program to attract petroleum exploration to the State. The program has included provision of technical and other information through initiatives such as Discovery 2000, marketing and promotion of the State's prospectivity and commercial advantages, and the provision of an appropriate legislative framework. These efforts are now close to bearing positive results for Western Sydney and the State as a whole.

Investigations for commercial production of methane gas from Sydney Basin coal seams are at an advanced stage. Sydney Gas Operations Pty Ltd has been conducting an extensive exploration program in the Camden area. The company is close to entering a limited production phase as part of the assessment of the project's feasibility. Seventeen of a proposed initial twenty five wells have been drilled at a cost of approximately \$10 million. If full scale production proves feasible in the next phase, subject to development approval, the number of wells could eventually grow to over 100, representing a substantial investment in Western Sydney. The Camden area has the potential to produce a significant part of the total gas currently imported into NSW from South Australia. The Government will facilitate the development of this project through the co-ordination of development consent and other approvals processes.

Commercial production of gas in Western Sydney would have very significant economic benefits for the region and the State. Gas has never been produced in New South Wales in large commercial quantities, and the Camden project represents an important opportunity for the establishment of a new industry. Direct and indirect employment opportunities and lower gas prices are just some of the benefits that could be expected.

3.2 SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

One of the important elements of Western Sydney is that it is a strongly multi-cultural region. It has a strong migrant and non-English speaking character with one-third of its people born overseas and 78 per cent of this group born in countries other than the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, South Africa, Ireland or New Zealand. It is one of the most cosmopolitan regions in Australia, with 30 per cent of people speaking a language other than English at home. In Fairfield City Council area alone, people from more than 130 nationalities, speaking more than 60 languages, live together. 60 per cent of Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents live in Western Sydney. The population growth is being accelerated by birth rates for the region well above the State average. Around one-third of residents are under 19 years of age. Since 1996, there has been a 30 per cent increase in aged and disabled pensioners in the region.

The Government is committed to meeting the needs of the people who live and work in Western Sydney. It is responding to this growth and diversity by allocating new resources to the region, and continues to support families and communities and protect children in Western Sydney. Government agencies providing services include the Departments of Aboriginal Affairs, Ageing and Disability, Attorney General's, Community Services, Education and Training, Fair Trading, Health, Housing, Juvenile Justice, Premier's, Urban Affairs and Planning, Women, the Rural Fire Service, the Ethnic Affairs Commission, the Home Care Service and the Police Service.

Government programs, initiatives and services for which funding has been allocated in 2000-2001, and which will support families and communities in Western Sydney, are outlined below.

Health

NSW Health continues to be a major component of the State Budget with the Government planning to spend around **\$1.2 billion** on **better health services** for the residents of Western Sydney in 2000-2001. This funding for new and upgraded hospitals, specialised cancer, women's health and other health services will continue to make it easier for Western Sydney people to obtain health care without having to travel long distances.

In March 2000, the Government announced a State-wide \$2 billion cash injection into the NSW health system over three years, in response to reviews of the system. This additional recurrent funding has been provided to improve the quality of patient care and relieve pressure on health system staff dealing with ever increasing demands. The Government is committed to ensuring that all areas of the State receive their fair share of health funds. For example, the South Western Sydney Area Health Service will receive an extra \$72.2 million per annum or 16.4 per cent, by 2002-2003.

In 2000-2001, Western Sydney will receive an additional \$60 million. **Recurrent funding** for the **Western Sydney Area Health Service** will rise by \$26.2 million from \$491.1 million in the 1999-2000 budget year to **\$517.3 million** in 2000-2001. Similarly, **South Western Sydney Area Health Service** funding will increase by \$25.2 million to **\$466.4 million** and **Wentworth Area Health Service** by \$8.6 million to **\$196.3 million**.

The Western Sydney Area Health Service will provide \$0.9 million for two further intensive care beds to be opened at Westmead Hospital.

The significant funding injection for the South Western Sydney Area Health Service, in addition to enhancement funding for mental health, drug and alcohol and dental services, and will allow for a range of service growth and expansion. Specialty services commenced at Liverpool Hospital in 1999-2000, including cardiology, rheumatology, gastroenterology, critical care, diabetic care and neurosurgery, will be consolidated. Throughout the South Western Sydney Area Health Service, services will be expanded in emergency departments, intensive care, elective surgery and chronic care. Investment will also be made in ambulatory care services. In this regard, community-based services will be strengthened to support the treatment of patients outside of the acute hospital setting and to ensure best practice discharge processes are in place at each of the Health Service's hospitals. It is also intended to provide funds to support the operation of a CT scanner at the Fairfield Hospital. This represents a significant service development and improvement for that Hospital and its community.

Wentworth Area Health Service will allocate \$0.9 million on the continuation of expanded services including the setting up of a Home and Ambulatory Detoxification Service. Detoxification Services have been identified as a service need in the Nepean area. The funding will also provide for an additional intensive care bed in the redeveloped Intensive Care Unit at Nepean Hospital which is expected to be completed by January 2001.

The Westmead, New Children's, Nepean and Liverpool Hospitals are all major teaching hospitals which are being continually upgraded. Mt Druitt, Camden and Campbelltown hospitals are also being upgraded.

The Government is determined to ensure that people in Western Sydney from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, Aboriginal people, some ethnic groups and people with disabilities continue to have equitable access to appropriate health services, as generally, these people have poorer health than the population as a whole. In each Health Service there is a network of services covering health promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. The Government's aim is that more people in the community will be able to demonstrate behaviour supportive of better health, including regular exercise, nutritious diet, moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages and decreased levels of smoking and abuse of illicit substances.

Major capital projects to be undertaken, continued or completed in Western Sydney in 2000-2001 include:

- ◆ Continuation of the **Macarthur Sector Strategy** which includes redevelopment of Camden Hospital and Upgrading Campbelltown Hospital by 2003, mobile vans to assist isolated areas and a child care centre in Camden/Wollondilly (**\$31.3 million**);
- ◆ Complete the stage two development of **Nepean Hospital** (**\$11.9 million**);
- ◆ **Blue Mountains Acute Inpatient Unit** (**\$1.8 million**);
- ◆ **Blue Mountains Hospital Hydrotherapy** (**\$900,000**);
- ◆ **Energy Smart Building Program** (**\$398,000**);
- ◆ **Nepean Hospital Campus Detoxification Unit** (**\$2.6 million**);
- ◆ A new \$5 million **Procedural Centre** at **Westmead Hospital** to provide greater access to day only surgery (**\$1.5 million**);
- ◆ **Radiology Oncology at Campbelltown** integrated with the major development (**\$4 million**);
- ◆ **Neonatal Emergency Transport** planning is continuing with expenditure in 2000-2001 of **\$800,000**;

- ◆ **NSW Breast Cancer Institute** at Westmead (**\$1.5 million**);
- ◆ **Bodington Hospital Nursing Home Wentworth Falls** (**\$3 million**); and
- ◆ **Campbelltown Adolescent Admission Unit/Day Centre** – new facility (**\$600,000**).

NSW Health will provide significant funding to maintain and expand specialised health services in Western Sydney in 2000-2001. These will include services as outlined below:

- ◆ In April 2000, the Minister for Health announced that **Mental Health Services** will have, for the first time, a guaranteed three year budget. Mental health problems, often hidden, affect one in five Australians. The Government's spending on mental health services, in direct response to the needs of families across NSW, will grow by \$36.5 million in 2000-2001. Areas that have been traditionally under-resourced will receive the largest increases. In the next three years, South Western Sydney Area Health Service and Wentworth Area Health Service will receive increases of 48 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively. In 2000-2001, the allocation for mental health services in Western Sydney will increase by \$8.1 million to almost **\$110 million**.
- ◆ The total funding package will provide additional direct care staff, new community service clients, extra emergency department clients and new acute care beds. Specific initiatives include the establishment of a new regional Adolescent Inpatient Unit in Campbelltown and a new Intensive Management Unit at Liverpool Hospital.

Dental Services in Western Sydney will be allocated an estimated **\$27 million** in 2000-2001, an increase of \$1.5 million or 6 per cent. In the three year period 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 funding for Dental Services will be increased significantly and, for the first time, dental funding will be allocated on a Resource Distribution Formula basis to bring fairness to all areas. By 2002-2003 dental funding to Western Sydney, Wentworth and South Western Sydney Area Health Services will increase by \$2.2 million (12.0 per cent), \$0.5 million (21.3 per cent) and \$3.5 million (8.2 per cent) respectively. The direction of monies to front line dental services will be supported by the introduction of a new Information Technology system to produce greater efficiencies for the customers and allow up-to-date networking of services. The system has been successfully trialed at Westmead Dental Hospital and will be introduced State-wide to provide a booking system which allows patients to be given an appointment rather than having to wait to be seen in turn.

The **Rehabilitation and Extended Care Program** in Western Sydney will be allocated an estimated **\$160 million** in 2000-2001. The objectives of the program are to improve or maintain the well being and independent functioning of people with disabilities or chronic conditions, the frail and the terminally ill.

Emergency Department Services within Western Sydney will receive an additional **\$1 million** per annum to reduce waiting times for patients to be seen in the Emergency Department as well as streamlining access to inpatient beds once a decision has been made to admit a person. These extra funds will be provided to Blacktown, Mt Druitt and Westmead Hospitals.

In 2000-2001, in addition to normal **ambulance fleet replacement**, a further 10 ambulance vehicles will be available to finalise replacement of all the Ford F series vehicles in Western Sydney.

Drug and Alcohol Services

The Office of Drug Policy within The Cabinet Office is responsible for the co-ordination, implementation and monitoring of the Government's Drug Summit Plan of Action. The Government is implementing a broad-ranging set of programs following the New South Wales Drug Summit held in May 1999. Programs which have the potential to impact on Western Sydney include:

- ◆ Home Detoxification Programs;
- ◆ New rehabilitation beds at non-Government organisation providers;
- ◆ Expansion of the General Practitioner Project;
- ◆ Remuneration to pharmacists as an incentive to participate in methadone service delivery;
- ◆ Case management for clients dealing with non-Government organisations and/or Government agencies, to ensure optimum use is made of available services;
- ◆ Expansion of services and places within the Methadone Program; and
- ◆ Expansion of Pharmacotherapy Stabilisation Programs for Inmates, eg trial naltrexone treatment.

The Government issued a Plan of Action to implement the main recommendations. The Drugs and Community Action Strategy, a key strategy of the Plan of Action is designed to contribute to a more co-ordinated and collaborative action between government, non-government and the community to address illicit drug issues. Eight regional Project Managers have been recruited to implement the strategy across NSW. Two Project Managers are co-located with the Premier's Department Regional Coordinators for Western Sydney in Parramatta and South West Sydney in Bankstown.

A key element of the Strategy is the establishment of new Community Drug Action Teams and support for existing teams. These teams will bring together local representatives of police, health services, schools and other agencies, with local service providers, councils and interested community organisations. Local drug action plans will be developed to guide action. The Drugs and Community Action Strategy operates within the framework of the Premier's Department Regional Co-ordination program.

Plan of Action initiatives specifically for Western Sydney are:

- ◆ Youth Drug Court;
- ◆ Extra resources for the Department of Juvenile Justice Intensive Support Program units at Blacktown and Liverpool for managing young people serving community-based orders;
- ◆ New Department of Juvenile Justice detoxification services to assist young people in custody who are high level users of drugs;
- ◆ Detoxification Unit at the Wentworth Area Health Service;
- ◆ New service to be established to provide methadone and counselling services in south Western Sydney;
- ◆ New drug rehabilitation beds and counselling services for young people;

- ◆ Healthy Lifestyle Zones to provide a strict drug-free environment for inmates to overcome addiction at Emu Plains and Parramatta Correctional Centres;
- ◆ Women's Transitional Unit to assist women inmates from prison to the community, probably in the Parramatta area; and
- ◆ Grants scheme to support youth drug and alcohol prevention activities for people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The scheme will operate in each of the three Area Health Services within Western Sydney.

The Government has allocated around **\$13 million** in 2000-2001 for **drug initiatives and related community programs** in Western Sydney.

Significant new Drug and Alcohol Services to be provided by the Department of Health in Western Sydney in 2000-2001 include:

- ◆ An additional 13 residential rehabilitation places for non-government organisations;
- ◆ Funding to establish ambulatory detoxification services in Wentworth Area Health Service (\$0.3 million) and South Western Sydney Area Health Service (\$0.2 million);
- ◆ A new multi-purpose methadone counselling service in Fairfield (\$0.4 million);

Approximately \$3.4 million will be provided to establish a new residential detoxification service in Wentworth Area Health Service.

\$2 million will be allocated to Pharmacotherapy drug treatment services to expand the number of new places within methadone treatment and increase the case management of methadone clients; and

The three Area Health Services in Western Sydney will receive Drug Summit funds to appoint a Service Access and Data Co-ordinator to assist in improving information relating to access and the provision of drug treatment services.

Education and Training

The Department of Education and Training has responsibility for publicly funded early childhood, primary and secondary education and training in both private and public sectors. Under legislative arrangements, TAFE NSW retains its identity within the organisation. The Department also covers higher education, adult and community education and the Adult Migrant Education Service. The Department will continue to build on its achievements in securing the future for students in all education sectors. Further steps will be taken to make the school and vocational training systems work more cohesively to provide students with clear pathways to further education and employment.

In 2000-2001, the Department of Education and Training estimates that in Western Sydney it will commit:

- ◆ approximately \$1.44 billion in operating costs for primary and secondary schools;
- ◆ over \$45 million on major capital works projects for schools;
- ◆ \$29 million on school building maintenance;
- ◆ approximately \$252 million in operating costs for TAFE Institutes; and
- ◆ \$12.1 million for the development and refurbishment of TAFE facilities.

The Government will continue to implement its **Computers in Schools Policy** which has provided schools in Western Sydney with more than \$38.7 million worth of computer equipment. Schools in the region will be provided with a **Computer Co-ordinator's Grant of \$5.3 million** and a **Technology Grant of \$5 million**. An additional **\$1.13 million** will be allocated to the **Technology in Learning and Teaching Program** to provide training to teachers working in Western Sydney.

Over **\$17 million** will be made available for the **Back-to-School Allowance** payments to families in Western Sydney in 2000-2001. Over **\$30 million** will be provided for literacy and numeracy strategies in schools throughout Western Sydney as part of the **State Literacy and Numeracy Plan**, of which a significant component is the Reading Recovery Program.

In 2000-2001, **\$8.6 million** has been allocated for the new **Mt Druitt multi-campus college** to provide excellent school education, TAFE and university opportunities. The campus consists of Dunheved, Mt Druitt and Shalvey High Schools for Years 7 to 10, Bidwell High School/Primary School for Preschool to Year 12 and Whalan High School for Years 11 and 12.

\$7.8 million will be provided in 2000-2001 to socio-economically **disadvantaged schools** in Western Sydney. These schools will be supported by 159 teachers for this targeted program. The **Student Assistance Scheme** provides financial support to those students in greatest need. It is expected that over **\$1.4 million** will be distributed under the scheme to Western Sydney schools in 2000-2001.

An additional **\$150,000** will be allocated for the **TAFE Youth at Risk Program** in the region in 2000-2001. An estimated **\$300,000** will be provided to schools in Western Sydney in 2000-2001 to enable year 9 to 12 students to **develop individual school to work plans**.

The **TAFE NSW Scholarship Scheme** will support further study for young people who have successfully completed vocational education and training courses as part of their HSC over years 11 and 12. The first scholarships will be offered to students completing their HSC in 2000 for study commencing in 2001.

In 2000-2001, funding of **\$200,000** will be available to students in government secondary schools in Western Sydney to undertake **study of languages overseas**.

It is expected that approximately **\$2.6 million** will be expended by schools in Western Sydney under the new **Vocational Education and Training in Schools Program** for the provision of vocational training by both TAFE and private providers.

Women

Making opportunities for women in Western Sydney is a priority of the Government. The Office of Western Sydney is continuing its joint initiative with the Department for Women which is aimed to promote the **equitable participation of women in the development of Western Sydney**. The initiative involves a partnership with the Department for Women to work collaboratively on policy and programs to improve opportunities for women in Western Sydney to participate in the economic, social and environmental development of the region. The program includes workshops for women in small business across Western Sydney using the Internet as a business tool. A focus will be on the participation of women in Information Technology opportunities within the region. In 2000-2001, the Department for Women has allocated **\$90,000** to the Western Sydney project.

Other programs which will assist women in Western Sydney in 2000-2001 include:

- ◆ Significant funds for **Women's Health Services**. The Breast Screening and Assessment Service will be continued at a cost of \$4 million. \$0.4 million will be allocated for the Cervical Screening Program with funds applied for promotion, marketing and education. A \$2.4 million capital contribution will be made towards the establishment of the NSW Breast Cancer Institute at Westmead, a project due for completion in early 2001. In addition, \$1.4 million will be provided to fund a range of services including Alternative Birthing Programs; Ethnic Obstetric Liaison Officers, Women's Health Coordinators and Women's Health Nurses. These funds include grants to non-government organisations to provide a range of services including cancer prevention, counselling and interventions to improve the health of women living in Western Sydney;
- ◆ A one day workshop, conducted by the Office of Western Sydney, titled *Australis Self Made Girl*, will assist disadvantaged and unemployed young women to start their own jobs in small business. Young women from across Western Sydney are assisted by Western Sydney businesswomen who volunteer to be mentors for the young women on the day;
- ◆ The **Women in Business Mentor Program - \$22,000** has been allocated to assist approximately 30 businesswomen to take part in two programs. One program will be run by the YWCA in the Liverpool and Campbelltown area and the second program is a retail specific program that will start in February 2001 in Parramatta;
- ◆ **Women in Business Growth Strategies Workshops** aimed at stimulating business growth, increasing employment and improving business skills; and
- ◆ Projects planned as part of the **Violence Against Women Strategy** include: further work with General Practitioners; development of the Domestic Violence Inter-agency protocol; targeting ethnic minorities; and education sessions addressed at mainstream service providers regarding domestic violence.

Services for children and families

The **Families First Strategy**, which commenced in July 1999, is designed to extend the parenting skills of parents with children under eight years of age through the improvement and expansion of family support services. In 2000-2001, \$11.6 million will be allocated to the strategy, of which **\$4.48 million** will be for prevention and early intervention services to support families in South Western Sydney. Families First starts with a visit in the family home by a nurse after the baby's birth and is followed up with regular visits from a trained volunteer, often an older person. The strategy involves NSW Health, the Department of Community Services, the Department of Housing, the Ageing and Disability Department and the Department of Education and Training. The Office of Children and Young People within The Cabinet Office is responsible for the development and ongoing evaluation of Families First.

The Commission for Children and Young People will be co-ordinating the process of **screening people who will be working with children and young people** in Western Sydney, at a cost of **\$120,000** in 2000-2001. In addition, the Commission will be conducting a **public inquiry** at a cost of some **\$10,000**, into children who have no one to turn to. Recommendations will be developed on how best to support children who do not have ready access to adults who can assist with their problems. **\$40,000** will be allocated in Western Sydney on the baseline research needed to develop the Commission's ongoing role for monitoring the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people.

Funding of the **Schools as Community Centres Program** will be continued in 2000-2001 with approximately **\$95,000** to be expended in Western Sydney.

The **Department of Juvenile Justice** will continue the following programs in Western Sydney in 2000-2001:

- ◆ **Intensive Program Units** at Blacktown and Liverpool specialising in counselling and developmental programs as an alternative to detention, at an estimated **\$1.2 million**;
- ◆ **Juvenile Justice Community Services** at Blacktown, Fairfield and Campbelltown provide the courts with community-based sentencing alternatives to custody. Funding allows for the employment of mentors to support non-English speaking background and Aboriginal clients as well as sessional supervisors to monitor work placements for clients serving community service orders;
- ◆ **Community Based Support Services.** A number of Western Sydney community organisations are partly funded by the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide various services such as:
 - the Ja-Biah Bail Support Program at Dean Park run by the Mundarra Aboriginal Youth Services for the provision of alternative accommodation, supervision and support for Aboriginal young people who would otherwise be refused bail;
 - an Indo-Chinese Juvenile Offender Support Program, administered by the Sydney Anglicare Home Mission Society, to provide culturally appropriate post release support services to Indo-Chinese young offenders, their families and communities;
 - funding of an accommodation support worker through Marist Community Services located at Blacktown;
 - the Pacific Islander Resource Service administered by the Penrith Streetwork Project which provides clients and staff with culturally specific information in relation to the assessment, case planning and integration of young offenders;
 - the Youth Links Post Release Support Program at Green Valley administered by Mission Australia for the provision of a voluntary post-release support service; and

The South West Multicultural and Community Centre, Minto for assistance for their Aboriginal Young Offenders Program;

Youth Justice Conferencing - approximately **\$800,000** will be allocated by the Department for Youth Justice Conferences for young offenders from Western Sydney. Conference Administrators are employed at Blacktown, Campbelltown, Werrington and Fairfield; and

Accommodation Support Program - funding will continue to be provided to implement recommendations from the Wood Royal Commission relating to accommodation support for homeless young people who are at risk of drifting into the juvenile justice system.

Services for older people and people with special needs

The **Home Care Service of NSW** is a State-wide service provider, which helps frail, aged people, younger people with disabilities and their carers to live independently in their communities. During 2000-2001, Home Care Service expects to provide services to more than 50,000 people across the State, including 8,500 people in Western Sydney. The services provided include: general housework; personal care; respite care; essential home handyperson assistance; live-in care; and essential shopping/transport assistance. It is expected that in 2000-2001, approximately **\$28.5 million** will be spent providing services to the Western Sydney community. Home Care has obtained additional funding to enhance services. Thirty Community Care packages for Aboriginal communities in the Campbelltown area have been obtained. Reductions in administrative expenditure will also see additional resources being directed to service provision next year.

In 2000–2001, **Home and Community Care** funding for Western Sydney is anticipated to exceed **\$2.5 million** (Nepean \$620,000; Cumberland/Prospect \$810,000; and \$1.1 million for South West Sydney).

Recurrent funding for services in Western Sydney under the **Disability Services Program** will total **\$62.2 million** in 2000-2001 (Nepean 130 services - \$12.23 million; Cumberland/Prospect 219 services - \$29.9 million; and South West Sydney 361 services - \$20.03 million).

In 2000-2001, more than \$270 million will be allocated Sydney-wide to fund subsidised pensioner travel on public transport. In addition, more than \$25 million will be expended on Transport Assistance Programs which provide transport subsidies under the Community Transport program, Home and Community Care Program and subsidies for half-fare taxi transport for persons unable to utilise public transport due to severe and/or permanent disabilities.

Total subsidies of **\$12 million** are expected to be provided to Western Sydney local councils in 2000-2001 under the **Subsidies for Pensioner Concessions Program** for shire and municipal rates relief.

Aboriginal People

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs works closely with the Penrith Lakes Development Corporation's Muru Mittigar Centre to advocate expansion of training and employment for Aboriginal people in culturally related activities, native vegetation nursery work, "koori landscaping", and cultural tourism. The Department also participates in the policy process for the region through its involvement in the Premier's Department Western Sydney Regional Co-ordination Management Group. It maintains close working relationships with the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury campus, through the Wyung Indigenous Unit, the Tourism Faculty and the Centre for Integrated Catchment Management to promote cultural tourism linked to training and enterprise development.

Aboriginal Health Services will be allocated **\$1.2 million** in 2000-2001. Non Government Organisation grants of approximately \$0.7 million will also be made to Aboriginal Health Services.

The Department of Industrial Relations has established an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workplace Services Unit** within the Western Sydney Contact Centre at Parramatta. This Unit assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW, especially the sizeable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Western Sydney, to understand their rights and responsibilities as employees, managers and employers. The Unit also assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain information on all Departmental services, and other related employment issues.

The Attorney General's Department will appoint four additional Aboriginal Court Liaison Officers, with one position to be a Specialist Children's Court officer based at Campbelltown Local Court.

Housing assistance is provided to the Aboriginal communities of Western Sydney through the **Aboriginal Housing Program** administered by the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office. The Program has three sub-programs:

- ◆ The Housing Aboriginal Communities Program - provides rental housing and housing related assistance for Aboriginal people in housing stock managed by Aboriginal housing providers, including Aboriginal Land Councils;
- ◆ The Aboriginal Housing Office Program - provides housing for Aboriginal people in housing stock owned by the Aboriginal Housing Office with tenancy and asset support functions contracted to the Department of Housing; and
- ◆ Sector support and resourcing.

In 2000-2001, a total of **\$2.265 million** has been allocated to the **Housing Aboriginal Communities Program** for housing projects for Local Aboriginal Land Councils. The Councils are Deerubbin (Blacktown), Gandangarra (Liverpool/Fairfield) and Tharawal (Campbelltown). In addition **\$340,000** has been allocated to the **Aboriginal Housing Office Program** in Parramatta and \$440,000 for sector support and resourcing throughout the Sydney Region.

The Department of Fair Trading will continue to support initiatives aimed at assisting the Aboriginal community in Western Sydney under its **Aboriginal Strategy**, with some **\$154,000** allocated in 2000-2001. The Strategy is designed to provide a gateway for Aboriginal consumers and traders to the services offered by the Department.

The Casino Community Benefit Fund

In 2000-2001, the Government will be committing **\$214,000** for gambling support and community development projects in Western Sydney. Grants include:

\$60,000 over two years to Save the Children Fund (NSW) Division (Blacktown Family Support Centre) for the provision of counselling and support to families who experience problems with gambling and who have pre-school children;

More than \$40,000 over two years to the Vietnamese Community in Australia (NSW Chapter), Cabramatta, to assist with the employment of a full-time Vietnamese domestic violence support worker for Vietnamese women who are victims of drug and alcohol users and experience domestic violence;

\$25,000 over two years to the Western Sydney Community Forum to address issues and needs for people experiencing gambling problems, in addition to addressing child abuse, domestic violence, homelessness and unemployment; and

More than \$40,000 over two years to the "Pendo to Parra" Youth Support to assist with a prevention strategy aimed at young people at risk of becoming chronically homeless, through the provision of accommodation, employment assistance and other support services.

Housing

In addition to the capital housing allocation in 2000-2001 to the Department of Housing for new public and community housing properties and the improvements to existing housing stock in Western Sydney, allocations have been made for:

- ◆ **\$1.263 million** for **246 new short and long term leased properties;**
- ◆ **\$4.3 million** for the **construction or purchase of 16 new crisis accommodation properties;**
- ◆ **\$0.11 million** for **10 new leased crisis accommodation properties;** and
- ◆ **\$0.938 million** for **capital improvements to more than 90 existing crisis accommodation dwellings.**

The Department of Housing estimates that an estimated 4,000 households will be newly assisted in public and community housing and that more than 9,100 households will be assisted with some of the costs of private rental. This includes private rental subsidies to more than 300 people living with a disability or people with HIV/AIDS.

The Department of Fair Trading has funded research into the potential impacts of the Sydney 2000 Olympics on the rental accommodation market. Monitoring of movements in rents in areas of Western

Sydney near Olympic venues is one of several strategies being employed as a result of this research in the lead-up to the Olympics.

Sport and Recreation

A total of **\$585,000** has been allocated to the Western Sydney and South Western Sydney Regional Academies of Sport and the NSW Institute of Sport. In addition, the Department of Sport and Recreation will spend **\$430,000** in 2000-2001 on programs and services in Western Sydney. These will include: the **Swimsafe Program** for learning to swim (\$100,000); the **Youth in Sport Program** (Youth at Risk) in conjunction with the Police and Community Youth Clubs to expand the range of sports and to continue working with high profile sporting teams (\$40,000); the **Introductory Opportunities** to a sport or activity programs (\$50,000); the **Coach Education and Leadership Program** (\$40,000); the **Vacation Sports Program** for children (\$40,000); the **Fitness Leaders and Austswim Accreditation**, a program for education and training of fitness and swimming instructors (\$40,000); the **Sports Development Programs** to assist coaches, officials, players and parents in many aspects of sport (\$45,000); **Aquafitness** (\$25,000); and the Greater West Sports Foundation (\$50,000).

Some \$6 million has been allocated State-wide to various programs for the **development of sporting facilities** (eg construction of sporting fields, resurfacing tennis courts, upgrading outdoor lighting) from the Capital Assistance Program and the Regional Sports Facility Program. Some eighty projects will be supported in Western Sydney in 2000-2001 from these programs with funding of around **\$850,000**.

Public Safety

The **NSW Police Service Western Sydney budget** for 2000-2001 will be around **\$218 million**. This includes recurrent funding such as salaries for the more than 2,750 police officers (as at January 2000) located within 46 Western Sydney Police Stations and capital expenditure for police training facilities at Westmead.

The NSW Police Service is closely involved in the Government's action plan on youth/community issues. All Western Sydney Local Area Commands have Youth Liaison Officers and Community Safety Officers. Initiatives under the action plan in Canterbury-Bankstown include:

- ◆ Operation Pericos, an on-going policing strategy targeting break and enter, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour;
- ◆ Youth Liaison Officers have been appointed to implement youth crime prevention programs, to deal with matters under the Young Offenders Act and to educate other police about youth issues;
- ◆ An Ethnic Employment Strategy for the Police Service has been developed so as to ensure that it reflects the ethnic composition of the communities it works in;
- ◆ Funding of a Juvenile Crime Prevention Officer with emphasis on prevention and early intervention;
- ◆ A workshop on graffiti solutions as a case study for a *Handbook on Graffiti Solutions for Councils, Designers and Developers*;
- ◆ A forum of key community stakeholders to address issues such as parent/family support, counselling, mediation and access to language and other services; and
- ◆ Improving communications between non-English speaking parents, schools and community organisations.

The Police Service, in conjunction with the Western Sydney Area Health Service, is developing training related to needle and syringe and methadone programs for the St Marys and Penrith Local Area Commands.

The Attorney General's Department has awarded the Hawkesbury City Council a **Safer Community Compact grant** of nearly \$142,000 over two years to implement components of its **Crime Prevention Plan**. In addition, **Safer Towns and Cities grants**, to be expended over two years, have been awarded by the Department to Canterbury/Bankstown City Councils (\$120,000) and Fairfield City Council (\$122,000) for the development of local crime prevention plans.

Corrective Services

A total of approximately **\$128.5 million** has been allocated for recurrent expenditure in Western Sydney in 2000-2001 for the **containment and care of inmates**, for the **Probation and Parole Service** and for **Attendance Centres**.

Supporting Cultural Diversity

State-wide in 2000-2001, almost \$80 million will be spent by the Department of Education and Training under the **Non-English Speaking Background (NESB) Program** and over **\$3.5 million** will be provided for the **Multicultural Education Plan**. Major proportions of these programs will be implemented in Western Sydney.

The **Business Migration** initiative will continue in 2000-2001 with a State-wide allocation from the Department of State and Regional Development of **\$50,000**. The initiative will assist the establishment of new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses in Western Sydney through increased investment and employment opportunities and the provision of information in community languages.

The **Western Sydney Regional Advisory Committee** will continue to advise the Ethnic Affairs Commission on ethnic affairs issues. The Commission will continue to provide funds under the **Community Development Grants Program**, to assist in promoting the participation of people of ethnic background in all aspects of community life. In 2000-2001, the Commission has allocated **\$55,000** under the program for staging street festivals in Western Sydney during the four weeks leading to the Olympic Games.

Ethnic Community Liaison Police Officers are located within the Cabramatta, Fairfield, Lakemba, Bankstown and Campsie Local Area Commands to **improve relations between communities and police**. These officers are involved in a range of activities including working with local businesses to reduce crime; providing policing information and workshops to community groups and schools; and developing community events. A "Police and Community Together" Project has been developed for the Bankstown and Campsie Local Area Commands and initiatives include; education packages for police; an Ice-Breaker Sporting Day organised between the Police and Arabic community organisations; and football skills and graffiti works projects.

The **Police and Community Training Program**, established in 1996, is jointly sponsored by the Police Service and the Ethnic Affairs Commission. The program will be extended into 2000-2001 for a project in Penrith/St Marys. The aim of the program is to promote and facilitate better relationships between the Police and local ethnic communities.

The Ethnic Affairs Commission's Language Services will continue to provide **interpreting and translating services** State-wide. The expected expenditure for the 2000-2001 budget is almost \$5 million.

Arts

\$400,000 has been allocated in 2000-2001 for the Government's *A Strategy for the Arts in Western Sydney*. In each of the subsequent two financial periods, \$500,000 will be set aside to continue implementation. The Strategy is a joint initiative of the Ministry for the Arts and the Office of Western Sydney. The Ministry for the Arts has appointed a Western Sydney and Community Cultural Development Program Manager to oversee the strategy's implementation. The Government's goals set out in the strategy are:

- ◆ to encourage arts and cultural activity that is locally determined and helps communities to grow;
- ◆ to assist artists in Western Sydney achieve their full potential;
- ◆ to increase participation in the arts by people in Western Sydney;
- ◆ to support and nurture the arts industry in Western Sydney; and
- ◆ to encourage regional cultural development.

Key commitments of the strategy include a **Local Government Arts Incentive Fund** to provide support to local councils for arts projects; a corporate support-for-the-arts scheme; and the refocusing of the Ministry for the Arts **Capital Assistance Program** to give priority to projects in Western Sydney.

2000-2001 will see the Ministry for the Arts focus more **Cultural Grants Program** expenditure towards Western Sydney, as part of the implementation of *A Strategy for the Arts in Western Sydney*. The allocation will be formulated by the end of 2000 when applications from organisations for 2001 activities are received and assessed.

The Ministry for the Arts will allocate more than **\$480,000** in 2000-2001 to the Historic Houses Trust of NSW for the **Rouse Hill Estate museum development**. Additional recurrent funding will permit public access to the historic estate two days a week, increasing to five days per week by 2004-2005. The property dates back to 1818 and was occupied by six generations of related families for over 185 years. It has a unique collection of artifacts, furnishings, farm buildings and equipment. The funds are to be used for maintenance, staffing, operating the visitors centre, interpretive tours, schools visits and outreach and community programs.

Community Development

Funding for grants to community organisations for family and community development services under the Western Sydney and Macarthur Area Assistance Schemes will continue to be provided at current levels. The level of funding is expected to be approximately \$4.7 million.

3.3 PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Local government, businesses and community groups throughout Western Sydney are working to protect the quality of the region's rivers, soils, air, vegetation and habitat for native animals. Western Sydney businesses are improving the efficiency of their use of energy and other environmental resources and reducing the production of waste. Individual householders in the region are also helping the environment every day by conserving water, reducing electricity use, using public transport and recycling waste to help the environment.

The environment in Western Sydney is a priority for the New South Wales Government. Outcomes on which the Government is focusing are improved air quality, improved water quality of waterways, reduction in the levels of waste, energy and greenhouse, environmental heritage, protection of biodiversity and a regional national parks and nature reserves network.

The Government's **Western Sydney Environment Strategy** was developed to provide an integrated approach to the region's environment. It will help maximise the effectiveness of existing programs and encourage government, industry, researchers and the community to work together for the good of the environment in Western Sydney. The Strategy was developed in 1999 by the Office of Western Sydney in conjunction with the three levels of government, *TeamWest*, the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, the Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils, the Western Sydney Waste Board, the Macarthur Waste Board, the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust, the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Management Trust, the University of Western Sydney, industry associations, industry, business and commerce and other key stakeholders in Western Sydney. The Strategy can be found at website www.westernsydney.nsw.gov.au

In 2000-2001, the **Environment Protection Authority** will spend some **\$16.8 million** of its operating budget in Western Sydney. Other agencies which have a role in protecting the Western Sydney environment include NSW Agriculture, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Land and Water Conservation, the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, the Sydney Water Corporation, the Sydney Catchment Authority, the Healthy Rivers Commission, the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust, Waste Service of NSW, the Western Sydney Waste Board, the Macarthur Waste Board, the Sustainable Energy Development Authority and the Office of Western Sydney.

NSW Agriculture is playing an important role in the achievement of agricultural Best Management Practices in Western Sydney. It is implementing water reforms and soil best management practices and is providing assistance to Wollondilly, Camden, Blacktown, Penrith, Hawkesbury, Baulkham Hills and Liverpool Councils to undertake rural land use studies. These Councils are seeking to retain sustainable agriculture as a land use and industry within their respective local government areas. NSW Agriculture is also working with all stakeholders in Western Sydney to achieve security of tenure and social equity, two essential factors in meeting the needs of the community.

Clean Air and Clean Waterways

Sydney's air quality will continue to improve as commuters switch to public transport. By 2010, the Government will have built a total of 90 kilometres of rapid bus only transitways which will connect Liverpool, Parramatta, Blacktown and Castle Hill. It is planned that 30 kilometres will be operational by 2003. The Parramatta to Chatswood Rail Link Environmental Impact Statement estimates a reduction of 181 million vehicle kilometres travelled by 2006. By 2021, the reduction will be 184 million kilometres, the equivalent of 6 million fewer passenger car trips every year. Achieving this type of reduction in vehicle trips means less fuel consumed and less air pollution. By 2021, it is estimated that reductions in greenhouse gases in the Sydney Basin as a result of the Rail Link will cut 14,676 tonnes of carbon dioxide and 1,137 tonnes of carbon monoxide from the atmosphere. The reduction in vehicle emissions will also result in a cut in lead levels, as 90 per cent of the lead in urban air comes from vehicle exhaust pipes.

In 2000-2001, **\$900,000** will be expended on the **Air Quality Monitoring Program** in Western Sydney.

The Sustainable Energy Development Authority has been established by the Government to reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions in New South Wales by investing in the commercialisation and use of sustainable energy technologies. The Authority has found that most factories, office buildings, clubs, hotels and shopping centres could reduce their energy consumption by at least 20 per cent by investing in the latest energy efficient equipment. Such investments invariably offer a high quality profitable rate of return, resulting in cost-effective energy savings. Similarly, the residential energy efficient program offered by the Authority has the potential to reduce household energy consumption by up to 40 per cent. The program for Government includes: helping local councils with energy efficient housing policies; assisting public and community housing managers to install energy and water saving devices; and helping Government agencies to undertake energy saving measures and reduce their energy consumption by 25 per cent by 2005. Anticipated expenditure in 2000-2001 by the Authority in Western Sydney is **\$0.5 million**, the greater part being through the **Energy Smart Business** and **Energy Smart Homes** programs.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean River System is one of the most important in New South Wales. With a length of over 450 kilometres, and draining an area from Goulburn to near Cessnock and Lithgow to Palm Beach, the Hawkesbury-Nepean is vital to the health and economic development of Western Sydney.

The Government will continue to fund the operations of the **Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust** in 2000-2001, through the Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC), with an allocation of almost **\$3.6 million**. In addition, the Trust will receive \$800,000 from the National Heritage Trust, **\$300,000** in **Environmental Trust and Stormwater grants** from the Environmental Protection Authority, a **\$100,000 Recreational Water Quality grant** from DLWC and **\$30,000 Local Government and Miscellaneous funding**.

In March 2000 the Minister for the Environment announced a key stage in the Government's comprehensive plan to restore the health of the river system. The major package of water reform initiatives includes the Government's broad-ranging response to the Healthy Rivers Commission report and the new environmental flow rules for the Coxs River. Water flow in the Coxs River will be significantly increased to enhance the ecological health of the river and improve the quality of Sydney's drinking water supply. The Government is also committed to tackling pollution across the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment through its ongoing massive program, costing \$180 million over the next 10 years, to upgrade Sydney Water's sewage treatment plants.

Approximately **\$24.4 million** will be spent by Sydney Water in the **Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment** in 2000-2001. As part of the Government's Waterways Package, Sydney Water is undertaking significant actions to improve water quality in the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment. Sydney Water is currently upgrading St Marys and Quakers Hill Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to further reduce the discharge of phosphorous to ultra low levels. Disinfection systems at all STPs are currently being upgraded to improve performance and to eliminate any chlorine residual in the treated water.

- ◆ A comprehensive whole-of-government approach has been taken in responding to the Healthy Rivers Commission's report setting clear goals and targets for the future and includes:
- ◆ setting new water quality objectives and strategies for the Hawkesbury Nepean River system;
- ◆ changing the river flow and water allocation arrangements through: the establishment of a Hawkesbury Nepean River Management Forum; limiting extractions of water during periods of high stress; trialing the release of water from major dams; and improving the management of water use;
- ◆ ensuring sustainable water management principles and practices in the catchment;
- ◆ promoting greater co-operation and accountability between Government agencies and local councils requiring all relevant Government entities to agree to a Statement of Joint Intent ensuring commitment to the endorsed recommendations of the Healthy Rivers Commission;

- ◆ reviewing the number of weirs in the upper Nepean River which are creating health and maintenance problems, with a view to removing as many as possible, subject to the needs of existing water users; and
- ◆ setting up, for the first time, the concept of an integrated effluent management strategy for the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.

Other Government funding initiatives for the river system under its **Water Reform Agenda** in 2000-2001 will include:

- ◆ **\$100,000** to implement a **Water Extraction Metering Strategy**;
- ◆ **\$100,000** to implement a **Communication Strategy** to convey water reform messages to landholders who have reading difficulties and to those from non-English speaking backgrounds;
- ◆ **\$100,000** to refine and implement the **Integrated Water Monitoring Framework** - to integrate all water monitoring activities and information across all agencies, organisations and the community into one management system to allow greater access to catchment information for water management planning and to avoid duplication of monitoring activities;
- ◆ **\$50,000** to maintain the **Low Flow Indicator Gauging Station Network** as part of the volumetric conversion program;
- ◆ **\$50,000** to maintain the **Daily Flow Model** - a daily flow predictive model to assist in decision making and water management planning;
- ◆ **\$30,000** to refine the **Geomorphological Benchmarking** study of the catchment which will provide a report card on the river channel condition of the entire catchment, a crucial tool for future environmental flow management;
- ◆ **\$30,000** for further **Biological Indicator Analysis** studies to develop an understanding of ecosystem stress and river health issues;
- ◆ **\$160,000** for the **Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program** which includes analytical monitoring, publication of results and liaison with catchment stakeholders;
- ◆ **\$20,000** for on-going consultation with landholders regarding the **Volumetric Conversion/Farm Dams Policy** to address landholder concerns and questions; and
- ◆ A total of **\$60,000** for on-going **liaison with stakeholders on water reforms**; investigation of **water quality of South Creek**; and the **management of blue-green algae**.

The Government will implement the Sydney Catchment Authority's work program to put in place practices and monitoring to ensure clean drinking water for all of Sydney. The Authority will allocate **\$1.2 million** in 2000-2001 towards improving the fundamental health of the catchments via its **environmental flows** policies. A significant portion of this funding is directed toward the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system. The Authority aims to improve the health of the catchments and protect biodiversity by implementing an environmental flow regime which supports rivers. In 2000-2001, the Authority will allocate **\$20,000** towards the **Streamwatch** initiative of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust. The initiative is aimed at improving knowledge of local catchments by involving community participants in water quality monitoring.

The Sydney Catchment Authority has instituted a **Grants Program for Catchment Protection and Improvement Projects**. Since July 1999 the Authority has made 5 grants available to local community

groups in Western Sydney for projects in relation to catchment management. Grants, capped at \$8,000 per project, are offered twice per year. The Authority has allocated **\$100,000 per annum** towards the Grants Program to assist community groups address catchment issues in their local areas. The Authority will also be funding an **Education Program** during 2000-2001 to ensure people living in the Authority's catchments understand the impacts of catchment activity on water quality. This is part of the Authority's commitment to an educative role in the community. The program incorporates total water cycle management concepts and is estimated to cost **\$100,000 per annum**.

In 2000-2001, the Sydney Catchment Authority will be establishing work experience programs for school students and graduates to enable these young people to gain knowledge of the Authority, its operating environment and its role in government. The Authority's education program to schools will be continued through excursions and the development of education materials relating to catchment protection and management. The Authority will also be fostering joint research projects with the University of Western Sydney. A stormwater management project is already underway.

The Department of Local Government will provide an estimated **\$78,000** in grants, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, to Western Sydney local councils, under the **SepticSafe Program**. The program aims to improve sewage management strategies in environmentally sensitive areas, particularly shellfish food production estuaries and drinking water catchments.

The Department of Land and Water Conservation will be allocating **\$123,000** in 2000-2001 to its **Western Sydney Salinity Investigations and Options Project**. The aim of the project is to capitalise on awareness fostered by the Salinity Awareness Program which finished in August 1999 and to investigate the mechanisms that result in salinity. The Department is working in partnership with universities on research projects; local government on management and planning options; and in-house on mapping techniques for salinity. The Department has also allocated **\$100,000** in 2000-2001 towards **urban erosion and sediment control**.

The **Hawkesbury Nepean Riverbank Management Program** is an ongoing National Heritage Trust funded program that commenced in 1996. It is a joint initiative of the Department of Land and Water Conservation and the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust and is aimed to improve government and community management of the river corridor between Penrith and Wiseman's Ferry. Initiatives include community education and field days, advisory services, re-vegetation programs, and establishment of demonstration sites in co-operation with landholders showing best management practices for riparian zone management. The projected Trust funding in 2000-2001 is \$187,000.

The Environment Protection Authority will allocate grants totalling **\$292,000** for the Stormwater Trust for **stormwater remediation** and associated projects in Western Sydney in 2000-2001.

NSW Fisheries will continue its initiatives in 2000-2001 on the **Fisheries Habitat Protection Plan** for the Hawkesbury-Nepean River System and the **Fisheries Aquatic Habitat Management and Fish Conservation Policy and Guidelines**.

The Environment Protection Authority will continue with the **Blue Mountains Urban Run-off Control Program** in 2000-2001 with an allocation of a further **\$1 million** to control stormwater impacts and to address environmental concerns such as soil erosion, siltation, seed disbursement and pollution of the natural water course.

Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Forests

The National Parks and Wildlife Service will allocate **\$390,000** in 2000-2001 on its on-going program of biodiversity surveys and threatened species recovery planning and protection in Western Sydney.

In 2000-2001, the Government will commit around **\$10.5 million** to **Regional Parks, National Parks and Nature Reserves** in Western Sydney. These include:

- ◆ **Western Sydney Regional Park**, Horsley Park, **\$2 million** for continuing the establishment of the park and for the provision of additional park visitor facilities;
- ◆ **Parramatta Regional Park**, **\$800,000** for landscaping, road and cycleway improvements;
- ◆ **Rouse Hill Regional Park**, **\$800,000** for the provision of additional picnic facilities, walking tracks and signage;
- ◆ **Leacock Regional Park**, Casula, **\$450,000** for continuing the establishment of the park and for the construction of bicycle paths and archaeological works;
- ◆ **William Howe Regional Park**, Narellan Vale, **\$600,000** for bush regeneration, erosion control, fencing, signage and park access and circulation infrastructure;
- ◆ **Lower Prospect Canal**, **\$1.3 million** for landscaping and construction of footpaths and cycleway;
- ◆ **Yellomundee Regional Park**, **\$350,000** for the preparation of a Plan of Management, improved access, fire and pest management programs and visitor facilities. A further 480 hectares will be added to the Park;
- ◆ **Blue Mountains National Park, Lower Mountains**, **\$300,000** for additions to the Park, including visitor facility upgrade; walking track maintenance; sign posting; fire, weed and pest management; and access road, car park and fire trail maintenance. In addition, the replacement of pit toilets with composting toilets in environmentally sensitive areas will be continued, as well as the upgrade of pump-out and septic systems with connection to sewage mains, at an estimated cost of **\$370,000**;
- ◆ **\$1.5 million** expenditure on Blue Mountains National Parks and Nature Reserves for on-going program of improvements to signage, interpretation and visitor information and pest, fire and wildlife management programs within **Blue Mountains, Nattai Reserves, Yengo and Wollemi National Parks**. 1,200 hectares of Crown land will be added to the Blue Mountains National Park to protect the scenically prominent eastern escarpment, as well as rare species and Aboriginal sites;
- ◆ An additional 70 hectares of land will be added to the **Mulgoa Nature Reserve** as added protection of one of the largest remaining remnants of the endangered community "Cumberland Plain Woodland"; and
- ◆ **\$2 million** expenditure on Cumberland Plain National Parks and Nature Reserves for ongoing program of improvements to signage, interpretation and visitor information and pest, fire and wildlife management programs within **Scheyville National Park, Bents Basin State Recreation Area, Windsor Downs Nature Reserve and Pitt Town Lagoon Nature Reserve**.

The Government will spend **\$20 million** in Western Sydney under the **Sydney Region Development Fund** in 2000-2001. Initiatives for the fund include an estimated **\$500,000** for the **Metropolitan Greenspace Program** and **\$639,000** under the **Greening of Western Sydney Program**. These programs will improve the amenity for the residents of the region through the provision of additional open space and the enhancement of existing open space. Expenditure on property acquisition for the year is expected to be approximately \$15 million. Commonwealth Bushcare Grants have been extended into 2001 and funding is anticipated to be \$639,000.

State Forests of NSW will spend some **\$600,000** on operations and services provided to the community at the **Cumberland State Forest** at West Pennant Hills. Also located at West Pennant Hills is the **Forest Research and Development Division** which has an annual budget of **\$7.2 million**. The Division's library is available to the community. The Research Division has a research focus on forest management and improvement, wildlife and habitat protection, forest carbon dynamics, biomass and bio-energy, mine site rehabilitation and water catchment health and re-forestation to address environmental problems like soil and water salinity.

The **Mount Annan Botanical Garden** has been allocated **\$300,000** in 2000-2001 for infrastructure maintenance. In addition, **\$100,000** has been allocated for the provision of improved visitor facilities at the **Mount Tomah Botanical Garden**.

The **Bicentennial Park Trust** is responsible for the management of Parklands at Homebush Bay. In 2000-2001 the Trust has been allocated **\$3 million** in recurrent funding and **\$4.5 million** in capital funding. The Trust continues to generate approximately \$500,000 in income, which is used to subsidise the range of services provided at the Park. Specifically, the Trust facilitates environmental education, eco-tourism, events and retail services that support local business. The Park is a high quality site which adds to Greater Western Sydney tourism, leisure and education services. The Park continues to protect significant conservation and natural heritage values in Western Sydney, particularly along the waterways of Homebush Bay and the Parramatta River.

Heritage

Stage 2 of the **Cumberland Plain Regional Aboriginal Heritage Strategy** will improve Aboriginal heritage management in Western Sydney through the identification of sensitive areas and the development of strategic planning mechanisms. **\$100,000** has been allocated for the strategy in 2000-2001.

Funding is being provided through the NSW Heritage Office under both the **NSW Heritage 2001 Program** for large conservation work projects and the **NSW Heritage Assistance Program** aimed at a wider range of generally smaller projects. Over the last 4 years \$21 million has been made available in 1,281 grants and loans for heritage projects. New South Wales has the largest State heritage funding program in Australia.

Projects in Western Sydney where expenditure is expected to occur in 2000-2001 are:

- ◆ **\$50,000** to Bankstown Council for **conservation work to main street of Bankstown** under the *NSW Heritage 2001 Program*;
- ◆ The **former St Bartholomews Anglican Church at Prospect**. The first stage of this project by Blacktown City Council will cost around \$330,000, of which **\$50,000** is being provided by a heritage grant. Major funding is also being provided through the Commonwealth's Federation funding program;
- ◆ \$300,000 in grants over 3 years to conserve and adapt the former Hawkesbury Hospital site at Windsor - a \$1 million project under the *1998 NSW Heritage 2001 Program*;

- ◆ \$400,000 over 3 years to Parramatta City Council to implement a **Cultural Landscape Masterplan for Harris Park** under the 1998 NSW *Heritage 2001* Program;
- ◆ \$1 million over 3 years for conservation work on the Female Orphanage at Rydalmere. This is a \$1.5 million project under the 1998 NSW *Heritage 2001* Program;
- ◆ A grant of almost **\$39,000** to the Richmond Anglican Parish to replace the **slate roof of St. Peter's Church** under the 1998 NSW *Heritage 2001* Program; and
- ◆ **Various grants from \$10,000 up to \$32,000** for: the **Wivenhoe Stables at Camden**; the **Studley Park House at Narellan**; **conservation work to the Old Ford Road**, (Campbelltown City Council); expenses associated with the **Great North Road**, (Hawkesbury City Council); the review of the existing list of **heritage items by Hawkesbury City Council**; the **Windsor Anglican Parish Rectory stables**; the restoration of **Collingwood House at Liverpool**; the **Richmond Main Street Program**; the renewal and installation of adequate **stormwater drainage to the 1839 St. Stephen's Anglican Church at Penrith**

The **Heritage Office will relocate** to the former Kings School in 2001. The building will be restored to provide a sympathetic adaptive re-use for this significant heritage asset in Western Sydney and to provide cost effective publicly accessible accommodation for the Heritage Office and the Heritage Council. The restoration will be undertaken as an investment of the Heritage Conservation Fund with expenditure of **\$2.4 million** in 2000-2001.

Waste Management

In 2000-2001, the **Western Sydney Waste Board** and the **Macarthur Waste Board** will be allocated **\$2.3 million** from the Waste Planning and Management Fund, administered by the Environment Protection Authority, to assist with the boards' operations and the implementation of regional waste plans for 2000-01 to 2002-03.

The Waste Planning and Management Fund also provides **Community Waste Reduction Grants** to a maximum of \$100,000. Grants are open to the commercial and industrial sectors (small to medium-sized businesses) for waste avoidance and/or re-use projects to minimise wood, paper, food and/or plastic wastes. This target area is particularly relevant to many businesses in Western Sydney.

Mine Rehabilitation

Following the closure of the **Oakdale Colliery** in 1999, the Department of Mineral Resources has identified the tasks necessary to complete the rehabilitation of the site and to protect the local environment and the water supply catchment. Steps have been taken to maintain the security of the site and to address adverse environmental impacts, such as on-site oil leaks.

The Department is negotiating an agreement to make safe and rehabilitate the site. The work, to commence in 2000-2001, will be partly funded by the mine owner's security deposit held by the Department and supplemented by funds from the Derelict Mines Rehabilitation Program. Total expenditure for the project is expected to be in excess of \$750,000. The work will make a positive contribution to the Government's aim of protecting the environment in Western Sydney.

3.4 BETTER GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Western Sydney is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation and its development socially, economically, environmentally and culturally is of great importance to the Government. One of the key roles of the Minister for Western Sydney is to work with other Ministers to ensure Government outcomes and improved services are delivered in Western Sydney.

In 2000-2001, the Government will continue the better delivery of its programs, initiatives and services in Western Sydney. These are summarised below. Agencies delivering government services within the region include, the Premier's Department, the Department of Transport, Roads and Traffic Authority, Department of Fair Trading, Attorney General's Department, Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades and the Department of Industrial Relations.

Premier's Department

Premier's Department has several major 'place-managed' projects and regional co-ordination initiatives in Western and South Western Sydney. The total budget allocation for these regional initiatives is **\$830,000**.

Regional Co-ordination Program. Under the State-wide Regional Co-ordination Program, Regional Co-ordinators lead and support projects that require cross-agency co-ordination and that have demonstrable benefit for the people, the economy, the infrastructure and/or the environment of the region. In 2000-2001, the **Western Sydney Regional Co-ordinator** will continue working with government agencies and key stakeholders on multi-faceted issues including:

- ◆ the development of major employment lands under the State Environmental Planning Policy 59 – "Central Western Sydney Economic and Employment Area";
- ◆ Parramatta major developments;
- ◆ improved human services planning and delivery (with Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) and human services agencies);
- ◆ travel access and promotion pilot (in partnership with DUAP, Department of Transport and local councils);
- ◆ government agencies' joint contribution to implementing the Mt Druitt Action Plan;
- ◆ the "Social Exclusion" factors research project and pilots (partnership with the University of Western Sydney and the Department of Housing);
- ◆ follow-up activities from the Non-English Speaking Background Natural Resource workshop; and
- ◆ implementation of Stage 2 of "Job Rich- Job Poor" travel access pilot project.

During 2000-2001 the **South Western Sydney Regional Co-ordinator** will be undertaking:

- ◆ the Textile, Clothing and Footwear industry strategy, to improve the working conditions of outworkers, will be further developed and implemented;
- ◆ a community renewal strategy for the Macarthur area will be developed in consultation with relevant State and local government agencies;

- ◆ an Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Plan will be developed, in conjunction with key agencies in the environment as well as the human services sector;
- ◆ support of the place projects in Cabramatta and Canterbury-Bankstown will continue; and
- ◆ working with DUAP and the human services agencies to ensure adequate planning for new urban release areas.

Cabramatta Project. The Cabramatta Project was established as a partnership between the NSW Premier's Department and Fairfield City Council in 1997 to develop an effective and co-ordinated response to the broad range of concerns of the people who live, work and visit Cabramatta. The Project has focussed on four key strategic issues:

- ◆ drug treatment and law and order,
- ◆ vocational training and employment for young people,
- ◆ tourism development, and
- ◆ improvements to urban amenity and infrastructure.

In 2000-2001 the Project will continue with the involvement of Fairfield City Council's Place Manager. The focus on the next stage of the Project will be on ensuring that the achievements in the first two years are sustained by agencies, business and the community. The Project has developed whole-of-government initiatives designed to deliver outcomes and has adopted a collaborative approach involving a number of government and non-government agencies.

Canterbury-Bankstown Project. The Working Group for this project finalised an Action Plan in 1999 which includes a commitment to on-going whole-of-government co-ordination facilitated by the Premier's Department. It covers a wide range of actions designed to address police, community and youth relations.

The Regional Coordinator for South West Sydney convenes a regular meeting of area managers of key State agencies, local government and key non-government organisations to oversee progress with implementation of the Action Plan and to guide further development of collaborative initiatives. These meetings address youth and family support issues such as crime prevention, vocational training and employment, sporting and cultural facilities, case management and co-ordination.

Fair Trading and Consumer Protection

In 2000-2001, the Department of Fair Trading will allocate **\$423,000** to the **Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program**. There are two services which offer information, advice and advocacy to Western Sydney tenants, the Western Sydney Tenants Service located at Harris Park and the South West Tenants Advice Service located at Liverpool. The services also offer community education programs and assist with cases in the Residential Tribunal. The Program focuses on tenants in risk groups including Aboriginal tenants, tenants of non-English speaking and culturally diverse backgrounds, older tenants, tenants in supported accommodation and tenants with disabilities.

The **Home Building Grants Program** commenced in 1999 and provides funding to education and training initiatives or research projects which enhance the relationship between home builders and consumers, enhance the professionalism of the industry, or provide support to apprentices. The allocation to the Program for Western Sydney in 2000-2001 is **\$350,000**.

Financial counselling services will continue to be provided by the Government in Western Sydney at an estimated cost of **\$310,000** in 2000-2001. The services include the Credit Counselling Program, which provides financial counselling and consumer credit legal advice and the NSW Financial Counselling Trust Fund, established with funds derived from monetary penalties imposed on credit providers by the Fair Trading Tribunal. Interest earned on the Trust Fund is allocated for the provision of financial counselling, training of people in financial counselling and for education in personal finance management.

In 2000-2001, the **Residential Tribunal** will be funded to the extent of **\$950,000** in Western Sydney. The Tribunal will continue to hear applications in Penrith, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Liverpool and Katoomba and expects to receive approximately 15,000 applications.

The **Fair Trading Tribunal** was established in March 1999 and its jurisdiction combines those of the former Commercial Tribunal, Consumer Claims Tribunal, Building Disputes Tribunal and Motor Vehicle Repair Disputes Committee. In 2000-2001, **\$2 million** has been allocated to the Tribunal in Western Sydney where it conducts hearings at Parramatta, Penrith and Liverpool.

Western Sydney consumers and traders are well served by four **Fair Trading Centres** located at Penrith, Blacktown, Liverpool and Parramatta. The Centres provide information and assistance on the full range of services offered by the Department of Fair Trading. This includes consumer information and complaint handling relating to fair trading, home building, tenancy and motor vehicles. Fair Trading Centres assist to resolve issues locally and at no cost to the client. Fair Trading Centres also provide access to business names registration, building licenses, lodgement of Fair Trading Tribunal and Residential Tribunal applications and Register of Encumbered Vehicles services. The 2000-2001 operating budget for the Fair Trading Centres located in Western Sydney is almost **\$3.7 million**.

Emergency Services

To continue the better management of the flood risk between Warragamba Dam and Broken Bay, **\$13.75 million** will be allocated in 2000-2001 for Western Sydney floodplain management projects funded through the **Hawkesbury-Nepean Floodplain Management Strategy**. In addition, a further **\$3 million** will be expended on various floodplain management projects in Western Sydney under the Government's **Western Sydney Floodplain Management Program**.

The **State Emergency Service** will be allocating funds to various programs in Western Sydney in 2000-2001. They include:

- ◆ Motor Vehicle Subsidies for regional SES Units to replace existing vehicles - **\$75,000**;
- ◆ Rescue Equipment - vital life saving and response equipment is provided to the Volunteer Service to enable effective, efficient and timely relief of personal distress at times of natural and man-made disasters. As part of this policy three new flood boats, including motors and trailers, will be provided - **\$60,000**;
- ◆ Protective Clothing (overalls, boots and helmets) for Volunteers to ensure Occupational Health and Safety standards are met - **\$31,000**
- ◆ Installation of a computer at each SES unit - **\$60,000**.

The allocation of \$91 million to the Rural Fire Fighting Fund will allow the accelerated tanker replacement program to continue. In 2000-2001, the first \$4 million instalment of a \$12 million program to refit existing vehicles with fire protection systems including fire blankets, will be allocated. Councils across Western Sydney will receive a significant share of this increased funding.

Industrial Relations

During 2000-2001, the Government will be allocating **\$1.98 million** to support **industrial relations services** in Western Sydney. The Department of Industrial Relations' Western Sydney Contact Centre (Parramatta) and South Western Sydney Contact Centre (Bankstown) will continue to provide assistance to individual Western Sydney employers and employees with workplace difficulties. The Centres will also undertake targeted activities in key industries and occupations in Western Sydney through award education and compliance campaigns. The Department will also provide educative activities and best employment practice advice through *Workplace Change NSW*, a specialist unit that is increasingly targeting its services to employers in Western Sydney.

Justice and Legal Aid

The Legal Aid Commission has seven regional offices in Western Sydney at Bankstown, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith (including the Penrith Children's Legal Service). These offices provide legal advice and assistance to all residents of Western Sydney, irrespective of means. They also provide representation services in the Criminal, Family and Civil Law jurisdictions, subject to the Commission's policies and means and merit tests. Interpreters for non-English speaking background clients are arranged as required. The combined budget for the **Western Sydney Legal Aid offices** in 2000-2001 is **\$12.5 million**.

Survey Services

The Land Information Centre of the Department of Information Technology and Management will spend a further **\$300,000** to complete its current two year program to provide **new edition topographic maps and digital information** for Western Sydney. As part of an ongoing program, a further **\$500,000** will be provided for **digital subdivision and boundary mapping** that will facilitate planning and land management in Western Sydney.

The accuracy of the coordinates of all **survey control marks** in the Hawkesbury, Liverpool and Blacktown local government areas will be upgraded at a cost of **\$100,000**.

Transport

In 2000-2001, Western Sydney will benefit from Sydney-wide transport improvements including:

\$25 million on the posting of **security guards** on every CityRail train from 7 pm until the service closes each night. This includes on-train security during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games;

Installation of surveillance cameras on all metropolitan Government and private buses; and

\$1.5 million for the Integrated Transport Information Service.

WorkCover

A restructure of WorkCover's Occupational Health and Safety Division has resulted in the establishment of industry-based teams in each of the metropolitan offices, including those in Western Sydney. The teams are multi disciplinary and include auditors, inspectors, specialist technical and scientific staff such as ergonomists, hygienists and engineers, project officers and industry liaison officers. WorkCover's Parramatta office is the Administrative Centre for the Construction Industry Team and the Liverpool office is the Administrative Centre for the Manufacturing Industry Team. The Occupational Health and Safety Education Unit, which provides training to industry on all occupational health and safety matters, is also located at Parramatta. In 2000-2001, WorkCover anticipates that its Western Sydney **operational expenditure** will be in excess of **\$6 million**.

CHAPTER 4 OLYMPICS BUDGET – WESTERN SYDNEY

The opening of the Tennis Centre in December 1999 brought to a close the NSW Government's five year venue construction program at Homebush Bay. By May 2000, all Olympic facilities in Western Sydney will have been completed. No other Olympic City had finished the permanent sporting facilities so early and at the same time provided such an impressive legacy for its residents. The Olympic and Paralympic Games sporting venues and facilities constructed by the Olympic Co-ordination Authority are world class. At the completion of the Games, the facilities will continue as outstanding venues for major sporting and entertainment events for the people of Western Sydney, New South Wales and Australia.

Homebush Bay is a popular destination for the people of Sydney and visitors alike since completion of the Sydney International Aquatic and Athletic Centres, together with the new home of the Royal Easter Show at the Homebush Showground. Stadium Australia, the Olympic Stadium, became operational in March 1999 and has proved to be an extremely popular venue, not only for major sporting events, but for concerts, seminars and special functions such as the Western Sydney Industry Awards Presentation Gala Dinner and the 2000 Anniversary celebration of the Catholic Church, both held in March this year.

The Olympic venues and major support infrastructure now completed and operational include:

- ◆ Sydney Showground and exhibition complex – host to baseball, badminton, rhythmic gymnastics, handball, fencing, judo, modern pentathlon and the main press centre during the Games.
- ◆ Sydney International Archery Park.
- ◆ State Hockey Centre.
- ◆ Stadium Australia – host to opening and closing ceremonies, the football final and the track and field program during the Games.
- ◆ Sydney SuperDome – host to basketball finals and artistic gymnastic finals during the Games.
- ◆ NSW Tennis Centre.
- ◆ Olympic Park Railway Station.
- ◆ Homebush Bay Wharf.
- ◆ Dunc Gray Velodrome at Bankstown.
- ◆ Sydney International Shooting Centre at Liverpool.
- ◆ Blacktown Olympic Centre that will host women's softball and be the "second" baseball venue for the Games plus athlete training facilities.
- ◆ Sydney International Equestrian Centre.
- ◆ Penrith Whitewater Stadium.
- ◆ Sydney International Aquatic and Athletic Centre.
- ◆ Sydney International Regatta Centre.

The main precinct for the Olympics and Paralympics is Sydney Olympic Park at Homebush Bay located on the doorstep of Western Sydney and in the geographical centre of Sydney.

The number of people estimated to have worked on Olympic construction projects in Western Sydney and Homebush Bay is over 100,000. More than 40,000 people have been involved on Olympic construction sites, with twice that number employed in supporting jobs off-site. More than a thousand people are now employed on site in permanent and casual working roles. This is being mirrored throughout Western Sydney as each Olympic venue is completed and made operational.

After the Paralympics, **Stadium Australia's seating capacity** will be reduced from 110,000 to 80,000. An amount of **\$13 million** has been allocated in 2000-2001 to undertake this work.

The Olympic Village for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be an international environmental landmark. The Village is one of the world's largest solar powered communities, setting the standard for future urban development. After the Games, the modular housing will be removed and further staged construction will increase the total number of dwellings to 2,000 to house an estimated 5,000 people. Recreation areas, medical centres and other facilities developed especially for the Games will subsequently become a primary school, community facilities and a retail complex.

In addition to the outstanding facilities at Homebush Bay, the NSW Government is contributing approximately \$317 million towards the construction of Olympic and Paralympic sporting venues, as well as the Lidcombe Media village, at various locations in Western Sydney.

The most significant legacies of the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the massive improvement to sporting facilities in Western Sydney and greatly improved public transport access to major sporting and entertainment events for the people of Western Sydney.

Environmental Initiatives

Sydney's western regions will have some of the most environmentally friendly sporting venues in the world at the time of the Olympic Games. The protection of threatened species, regeneration of the Cumberland Plain woodland and reduction of greenhouse gases have all been key factors in the development of Olympic venues in Sydney's West.

The Olympic Co-ordination Authority scored its best result yet with an average of 8.5 out of 10 for its environmental performance in the third and final Earth Council review to be completed before the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The report highly scored OCA's work in the areas of energy and water conservation, protecting air, water and soil quality, ecological studies and regeneration programs.

Wilson Park will reopen to the public by the end of 2000 after eight years of closure. It is a 12 hectare recreation area on the Parramatta River, linked along the river frontage to Homebush Bay.

Millennium Parklands will be one of the major legacies of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It comprises more than 100 hectares of wetlands and waterways covering Homebush Bay. The clean-up and innovative landscaping of landfill areas, including some contaminated land, and the introduction of a site-wide ecological program have helped transform the waterways and wetlands into thriving aquatic habitats. The wetlands have proved a successful habitat for fauna such as the threatened Green and Golden Bell Frog and a range of bird species.

Homebush Bay is leading the world in the implementation of strategies to save water. Water conservation initiatives will eventually halve the amount of water required for the site, reducing the demand on Sydney's supply of drinking water.

The Water Reclamation Scheme (WRAMS) is an important environmental initiative which will meet the commitment to maximise the use of recycled water around Homebush Bay. The Scheme will provide 800 megalitres of treated stormwater and sewage effluent each year, to be used primarily for toilet flushing and irrigation. This will reduce the demand on Sydney's water supply by 50 per cent across Homebush Bay and Newington.

Olympic venues have also been designed to reduce water use. They feature water-saving devices, such as dual flush toilets and non-drip taps, as well as water saving techniques such as roof-recycling systems which collect rain water for use in irrigation.

Transport

Public transport access to Homebush Bay has been an integral feature of planning for the development of the Olympic site. Homebush Bay is accessible via the new rail loop to Olympic Park station. Regular bus services to Strathfield, Lidcombe and Parramatta serve the site and ferry services are also available.

The Olympic Roads and Transport Authority was established by the Government to co-ordinate the planning and delivery of transport services during the Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as for Special Events at Homebush Bay. The Authority has introduced Park and Ride facilities, which incorporate the provision of special car parks in close proximity to Regional Bus Services. These Park and Ride facilities and cross-regional bus routes servicing Homebush Bay will be supplemented by additional bus services and park and ride sites to service Olympic and Paralympic Western sporting venues in Western Sydney.

The Sydney 2000 Games will involve the biggest continuing demand for travel, especially by rail, ever experienced in Australia. The Olympic Roads and Transport Authority has produced Olympic Venue Transport Plans which detail how local communities around each venue will be protected through special event parking schemes and other traffic management measures. The Plans assist with Games time planning for those who work, deliver goods or have customers or clients in venue areas.

Water

Sydney Water has been working closely with the Olympic Co-ordination Authority to provide water and waste water services for a number of key Olympic venues in Western Sydney. These venues include the:

- ◆ Sydney International Equestrian Centre;
- ◆ Softball stadium at Aquilina Reserve;
- ◆ Penrith Regatta Centre and Whitewater Rafting Centre; and
- ◆ Sydney International Shooting Centre.

Servicing of these venues is generally now complete. However, Sydney Water is continuing to work closely with the Olympic Co-ordination Authority to ensure the servicing needs for the "Olympic Overlay" at each of these venues is also addressed. Olympic Overlay is the temporary facilities being provided at each venue for the Games period. In addition to servicing the new venues, Sydney Water is currently preparing plans aimed to ensure that it can fulfil its obligations to all customers and international visitors in Western Sydney, whilst dealing with the extraordinary demands and constraints on its business during the Olympic period.

Sydney Water is planning to have all critical staff available during the Olympic period and plans to conduct simulation exercises to test its plans. Sydney Water has also been working closely with the Olympic Security Command Centre, reviewing its security arrangements for the Olympic period.