



# **Gladys Berejiklian MP**

## **NSW Treasurer**

### **Minister for Industrial Relations**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday April 16 2015

### **JOBS GROWTH SHOWS NSW SURGING AHEAD**

The ABS Labour Force figures released today show strong jobs growth in NSW compared to the rest of the country, with the state's unemployment rate also falling.

NSW Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian said the NSW unemployment rate decreased to 6.0 per cent in March from 6.2 per cent, with the jobs market remaining strong.

"Of the 37,700 jobs created nationally in March, almost 70 per cent of these - 26,000 - were in NSW, showing the NSW economy is surging ahead compared to the rest of the nation," Ms Berejiklian said.

She said the NSW unemployment rate has now been at or below the national average for 16 consecutive months.

"Today's numbers show we continue to lead the way on a range of indicators and have delivered on our commitment to make NSW the number one economy," Ms Berejiklian said.

"The policies of the NSW Liberals & Nationals have now helped to create 175,700 jobs in NSW since April 2011.

"Labor left this state in a complete mess when it left office, and the people of New South Wales spoke loud and clear at last month's election.

"But we will not become complacent. Our Rebuilding NSW plan will provide a \$20 billion boost to infrastructure and grow the economy by an extra \$300 billion.

"The Government is now proceeding with the long-term lease of 49 per cent of the state's electricity network assets to build the much needed infrastructure to get NSW moving and create even more jobs for this state.

"Our plan includes key projects such as Sydney Rapid Transit and WestConnex and new hospitals and schools that will support jobs, increase growth and improve our standard of living.

"We will build on the four years of hard work we have already given the people of this great state as we continue to boost the economy and jobs, delivering the vital infrastructure and services we need."

NSW continues to cement its place as Australia's top performing economy with other key indicators including:

- **Consumer Sentiment:** NSW consumers are the most positive in the nation, according to a survey by Westpac and the Melbourne Institute released earlier this month.
- **Retail Sales:** NSW has had the strongest annual growth among the mainland states for the last 16 months straight.
- **Residential Building Approvals:** NSW residential building approvals have risen by almost 60 per cent over the last three years, in annualised terms, and are now around decade highs.

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