

Western Sydney Budget Statement

2002-03



New South Wales

FOREWORD

For the fifth year in a row, the NSW Government is delivering a record level of funding for the people of Western Sydney.

This year, 2002-03, the State Government will spend more than \$5.7 billion to generate jobs and investment, create world-class schools and health services, build safer communities, protect our unique environment and modernise transport and other infrastructure in Western Sydney. This is an increase of \$1.2 billion over the \$4.5 billion that was reported in last year's Western Sydney Budget Statement.

This funding will bring immediate benefits to Western Sydney families, communities, businesses and the environment, as well as provide the basis for future sustainable growth.

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

- ◆ \$2 billion for Western Sydney schools and TAFE Colleges
- ◆ \$1.4 billion for new and ongoing health services
- ◆ \$785 million on Western Sydney public transport and roads
- ◆ \$628 million for employment, housing, family, child and community support services, arts and sport
- ◆ \$557 million for police and public safety, and
- ◆ \$403 million for regional parks, water, waste and other environmental initiatives.

I am delighted to present, on behalf of the New South Wales Government, the 2002-03 Western Sydney Budget Statement.

This Budget shows that we will continue to work in partnership with the businesses, Local Councils and communities of Western Sydney to make the region a stronger, safer and more environmentally sustainable region.



Kim Yeadon MP
Minister for Western Sydney
Member for Granville

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Western Sydney covers fourteen local government areas over some 8,000 square kilometres. It encompasses the local government areas of Bankstown, Auburn and Parramatta, south to Wollondilly Shire, Blue Mountains City Council to the west and north to the Hawkesbury Shire.

This Western Sydney Budget Statement reports on the Government's progress of its major initiatives.

The Statement is not a description of every Government initiative which will impact on Western Sydney in 2002-03, 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 comprehensive 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.

CHAPTER 2: MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

The NSW Government appointed the first ever Minister for Western Sydney in 1997. The Minister regularly meets with the region's local government, business and community leaders. These meetings inform the Minister of regional developments, and the Minister ensures that Western Sydney economic, social and environmental issues are raised at the heart of Government, in Cabinet.

The Office of Western Sydney was established by the Government in 1998 to provide strategic leadership for the region and to achieve significant improvements in the economic performance, social development and urban livability of Western Sydney. It provides high level strategic advice to Government on Western Sydney issues and develops and drives innovative regional initiatives to address economic development, social and environmental priorities for the region.

The NSW Government, through the Minister and the Office of Western Sydney, has developed many 'whole-of-region' initiatives in partnership with businesses, industry associations, all three levels of government, the University of Western Sydney, community organisations and other key stakeholders within and outside Western Sydney. A study tour organised by the University of Sydney in 2001 showed that many of these initiatives are ground-breaking, not only in Australia, but also in Europe.

The Office reports to the Minister for Western Sydney and forms part of the Department of Information Technology and Management. The Office is located on the Westmead Campus of the University of Western Sydney and in the Macarthur area at Campbelltown. The Government will provide **\$3.364 million** for the **operation of the Office of Western Sydney** in 2002-03.

The Office of Western Sydney, in the context of international developments, has reviewed its initiatives to support the advancement of Western Sydney. The focus in 2002-03 will be in three key areas: Western Sydney as a Knowledge region; the region's Environment; and Social Development in Western Sydney.

Major initiatives of the Office for 2002-03 include:

The Knowledge Region

- ◆ **The Knowledge Economy Conference.** This conference will focus on: (1) government policy directions and initiatives to accelerate growth of the knowledge economy; (2) the knowledge assets of Western Sydney; (3) the role of knowledge intensive and globally competitive industries; (4) generating knowledge and wealth creation through research and development, innovation, commercialisation and technology transfer; (5) the impact of incubators and technology precincts; and (6) entrepreneurship.
- ◆ The **Western Sydney IT Cluster** is one of a series of knowledge-region initiatives launched by the Minister for Western Sydney in 2001 to accelerate the growth of high technology knowledge-intensive industries in Western Sydney. Over 300 Western Sydney IT companies are actively involved in the Cluster, which affords them with a unique opportunity to gain access to an integrated business support package of resources from Commonwealth and State government agencies and the private sector. Cluster initiatives include: the Western Sydney IT Start-Up Award to assist Western Sydney entrepreneurs to start-up new businesses; and the Global Business Strategy Program which assists Western Sydney IT firms to develop and implement global business strategies.

- ◆ Building on the success of *BioWest* – the Directory of the Biotechnology Industry in Western Sydney, which was launched by the Minister for Western Sydney in February 2002, the Office of Western Sydney is establishing the **Western Sydney Biotechnology Cluster**. This Cluster will accelerate the growth of jobs and investment in the region's biotechnology industry by strengthening the links between industry, research, education and government.
- ◆ the **Western Sydney Industry Awards**, now in their fifth year, articulate the key drivers of growth for business and jobs and recognise excellence, innovation and leadership in Western Sydney industry in areas that are of strategic importance to the future of Western Sydney's economy.
- ◆ **IT Sydney West – The Directory of the IT Industry in Western Sydney**. The development of the *IT Sydney West* directory in 2000 revealed a dynamic, globally competitive IT industry in Western Sydney. Some 330 Western Sydney IT companies were listed. The directory has been circulated internationally by Austrade and will be updated in 2002-03.
- ◆ The **IT Roadmap – Technology Diffusion and Knowledge Management Program** is designed to accelerate the use of IT and knowledge management and enhance the global competitiveness of Western Sydney businesses, their key supply chains and the region. It is anticipated that the 2002-03 programs will bring together supply chain partners in the region's metals and transport industries.
- ◆ **Western Sydney New Entrepreneurs Program**. This program will provide a practical package of information, training, resources and mentoring to small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in various industry sectors in Western Sydney. It will assist SMEs to take advantage of the supply chain, customer service, financial controls, exports and global marketing opportunities open to them if information and communication technologies are adapted to suit their needs.

The Environment

- ◆ The **Environment Strategy for Western Sydney** provides a blueprint for bringing industry, the community and government together to work towards environmental sustainability and sound resource management. Details can be found in Chapter 3.3 of this Budget Statement.

Social Development

- ◆ **Corporate Partners for Change (CPC)** is a successful partnership between government, industry and the community that has provided jobs, traineeships or apprenticeships for over 280 unemployed people in the region in growth industries such as information technology, electronics, general engineering, hospitality and assistants in nursing (aged care). The initiative also assists people with disabilities and those living in housing estates. Training programs are funded by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training. Eleven CPC programs are planned for 2002-03.
- ◆ The **Social Entrepreneurs Program** will focus on building capability within disadvantaged communities through social entrepreneurship initiatives. Links will be built between Western Sydney businesses and socially disadvantaged communities to create pathways to jobs and traineeships to break the cycle of inter-generational unemployment.
- ◆ **Initiatives for Women**. The Office of Western Sydney is working with the Department for Women to expand opportunities for women and to improve their participation in the economic and social development of the region. Planned initiatives include training to develop IT and business skills, mentoring and using the Internet as a business tool.

- ◆ The annual **Western Sydney Budget Statement** will continue to outline the key State Government programs for securing jobs and investment, supporting families and communities, protecting the environment and delivering better government services. This information assists government agencies and Western Sydney people to assess regional programs and service priorities. It also reports on expenditure outcomes for the previous year's programs and initiatives.

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 2002-03

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 2002-03.

3.1 SECURING JOBS AND INVESTMENT IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Western Sydney is experiencing the greatest economic growth in its history. Its economy has increased by an unprecedented 14.8 percent since 1996. A record \$9.8 billion in private and public sector investment in Western Sydney is planned over the next six years, generating nearly 25,500 construction and 33,900 operational jobs. The Western Sydney region represents 10 percent of the Australian economy, with Gross Domestic Product of more than \$58 billion a year. More than 150 of Australia's top 500 companies are now located in Western Sydney. By 2015, major expansion in the region will see the arrival of 220,000 new residents, 100,000 additional workers and an expected gross turnover of \$80 billion.

The Government's Western Sydney Jobs Plan is encouraging jobs and investment by building partnerships between business and Government. Boral, Lend Lease and Sungei Way are investing more than \$4.6 billion in technology business parks, warehousing, housing and retail. These projects are creating more than 3,000 construction jobs in the short-term and more than 9,000 in the medium-term.

The \$1.2 billion Western Sydney Orbital will generate 8,500 direct jobs over some five years and attract businesses employing some 37,000 people to Western Sydney over the coming decades. Major Government infrastructure projects, including the *Action for Transport 2010* plan, are generating jobs for Western Sydney. The 95 kilometre network of rapid bus only Transitways, to be constructed by 2010, will provide faster travel and better links to jobs, health, education and leisure facilities. Construction of the first 20 kilometre, \$200 million Transitway link between Liverpool and Parramatta is on schedule for completion by 2003.

The Parramatta Regional Environment Plan will assist Parramatta develop as Sydney's second major central business district. This far-sighted Government planning instrument will clarify planning and zoning requirements of the Parramatta central business district and will help create up to 35,000 new jobs over 20 years.

The Government is continuing to deliver on its Parramatta Property Strategy. Sydney Water will move 800 staff from its headquarters in the Sydney CBD to Parramatta in 2005. The move will generate more than \$130 million worth of new development, creating 1,000 jobs in construction when combined with the start of the NSW Police headquarters' relocation to Parramatta in 2003. The latter will be the largest decentralisation of public servants in 15 years, with the first phase creating 1,350 jobs.

The Parramatta Justice Hub will involve a \$140 million investment by the Government for the development of part of the Old Parramatta Hospital site. To be completed by 2006, the project will create 4,500 long-term jobs and will take advantage of the existing strength of Parramatta as one of the top three legal precincts in Australia.

The \$750 million Wonderland Business Park project at Eastern Creek, to commence in 2002-03, will be a world-class headquarters for technology. The entire Central Western Sydney Economic and Employment Area SEPP 59 corridor around the M4 intersection with the Western Sydney Orbital, when complete, will provide 32,000 jobs in the areas of IT, advanced manufacturing, transport and distribution.

Ingleburn will become the new 'silicon valley' of toolmaking following a \$4.4 million commitment by the NSW Government for the Austool Tooling Innovation Centre. The Centre, to be built on a 15 hectare dedicated business park by Landcom, will provide a focal point for new technology in Australian manufacturing and provide an estimated 700 new jobs. This venture is a prime example of what can be achieved when Government and industry work co-operatively to drive innovation in technology and manufacturing.

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, Resource NSW 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), Sydney Catchment Authority (Penrith), Integral Energy (Blacktown) and the Department of Sport and Recreation (Homebush Bay). 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.

Government programs, initiatives and services for which funding has been allocated in 2002-03, and which will encourage investment and job creation in Western Sydney are outlined below.

Public Infrastructure

The Government is investing \$12.1 billion on major new and ongoing capital infrastructure projects in Western Sydney. This infrastructure includes new and upgraded roads and rail, schools, hospitals, correctional facilities, water and sewer infrastructure and community facilities. This is providing an average of more than 3,000 jobs per year over four years in the construction sector, and complemented by private sector investment, is sustaining jobs growth in the region. Full details of Government capital works can be found in Budget Paper No. 4. **Major capital projects for agencies in 2002-03 include:**

Attorney General's Department

\$8.665 million will be allocated for **court related works** in Western Sydney including: programmed maintenance on court houses; construction of the Parramatta Children's Court, the new court house at Mt Druitt and the four-court complex at Bankstown; and alteration and additions to courthouses at Blacktown and Penrith.

Department of Corrective Services

Correctional facilities will continue to be upgraded and expanded at Windsor and Parklea with expenditure of **\$34.5 million**. Each project will increase the total of inmate beds by 200 when completed in December 2002 (Parklea) and July 2003 (Windsor).

Department of Education and Training

Over **\$68 million** is proposed to be spent on the provision of **major new and refurbished facilities for schools**. New schools will be constructed at Cecil Hills, Mount Druitt, Glenwood, Kellyville, Mount Annan and Prestons. Replacement schools will be constructed at Seven Hills and Rouse Hill. In addition, an estimated **\$36.7 million** will be expended in Western Sydney on **school building maintenance**. A total of **\$7.8 million** will be spent on the **development and refurbishment of TAFE facilities** at Granville, Liverpool, Miller and Wetherill Park.

Environment Protection Authority

The Authority will continue with the **development of a scientific laboratory at Lidcombe** with expenditure of **\$4.24 million**.

NSW Fire Brigades

The Brigades will commission **new fire stations at Glenhaven and Baulkham Hills** at a cost of **\$3.4 million**. **New Urban Pumper fire trucks** will be purchased for three fire stations in Western Sydney at a cost of **\$750,000**. In addition, **\$912,000** will be expended on **fire station maintenance**.

NSW Health

In 2002-03, over **\$47 million** will be allocated for **health related capital works** in Western Sydney including facilities at Camden, Campbelltown, the Blue Mountains, Liverpool, Penrith and Westmead.

Housing

The Department of Housing will allocate more than **\$159 million** on **capital expenditure** in Western Sydney. In excess of \$31 million will be spent on the construction or purchase of 289 new public and community housing properties for eligible people on low incomes. Nearly \$4.8 million will be spent on the completion of properties commenced in 2001-02 and around \$77.5 million will be allocated for capital improvements to more than 8,600 public and community housing dwellings. In addition, over \$45.3 million will be expended on repairs and maintenance of public housing stock in the region.

The NSW Aboriginal Housing Office is allocating around **\$2.5 million** in **capital works** expenditure for the provision of new housing in Western Sydney.

Department of Juvenile Justice

The Government has allocated \$57.1 million over four years to **develop Reiby and Cobham Juvenile Justice Centres** and to construct a **new young women's facility at Lidcombe** to replace the Yasmara facility at Haberfield. Of this funding, **\$15.3 million** is projected to be spent in 2002-03.

National Parks and Wildlife Service

As part of the Katoomba re-vitalisation project, **\$300,000** will be provided for the construction of the National Parks and Wildlife Service's **Blue Mountains Regional Office** within the Katoomba TAFE East Site Redevelopment.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority

Homebush Bay and its surrounds will be revitalised this decade with up to a dozen major projects. This will include around \$880 million under the new Masterplan for Olympic Park to revamp the precinct into a vibrant commercial and residential zone, employing 10,000 people. In 2002-03, the Sydney Olympic Park Authority will allocate **\$13 million** to complete **re-configuration works at Stadium Australia**. Work will include the construction of end roofs so that 95 percent of seating will be undercover, as well as landscaping to the area formally occupied by the temporary stands. It is anticipated that promotions of events at the Sydney Olympic Park precinct and parklands will substantially increase visitor numbers. To accommodate this increase as well as commercial development in the precinct, **\$2 million** has been allocated in 2002-03 for the provision of signage and video screens.

PlanningNSW

2001 marked the establishment of PlanningNSW's **Metropolitan Development Program** which is planning for large scale future growth areas in both the existing metropolitan and greenfields areas, in particular the co-ordination of physical and social infrastructure. The Government has announced it will open up major new tracts of land, and speed up the development of existing land, to provide new homes for Sydney families. About 17,000 hectares of land in the South West Corridor (Edmondson Park Composite, Harrington Park stage 2, Bringelly, Glenfield Road, Elderslie and Springfarm, Menangle Park, Yurrunga and Hoxton Park), the West Corridor (Glenmore Park stage 2 and Marsden Park) and the North West Corridor (Alex Avenue, Schofields Aerodrome, Riverstone, Second Ponds Creek and Balmoral Road) are being investigated to provide more than 89,000 housing lots.

The Government is committed to quality planning and design for these communities of the future. Under a fifteen year blueprint, the land will be planned for and developed in an entirely new way. This plan paves the way for roads, public transport, health services and schools to be delivered at the same time as the new housing land. There will be a careful balance between protecting the environment and providing new homes. Good urban design will be a vital element in each release area to ensure housing choice, local shops and good access to public transport. Within three years, the plan aims to progressively increase the number of lots available per annum to 10,000. Detailed planning for all land includes:

- ◆ rigorous environmental studies to protect an area's biodiversity;
- ◆ transport plans;
- ◆ stormwater and sewerage plans; and
- ◆ the layout of suburbs for housing, employment and community facilities.

PlanningNSW anticipates spending an estimated **\$9 million on land purchases** in 2002-03 for requirements such as transport and service corridors, regional parklands and open space reserves.

During 2002-03 PlanningNSW, in partnership with Landcom, will be calling select tenders for the development of the **Rouse Hill Regional Centre** in a joint venture with the private sector. The Regional Centre will provide retail, commercial, residential, educational, recreational, transport and community facilities for the residents of the fastest growing area of Sydney. The estimated cost of the development is \$600 million and stage one will open in 2005.

NSW Police Service

In 2002-03, the Government has allocated **\$8.7 million** towards the building of a **new police station at Cabramatta**, which is estimated to cost \$12.78 million. Construction of the new facility has been given the highest priority and is scheduled to be completed in the second half of 2003. In addition, **\$17.5 million** has been allocated for the **relocation of the NSW Police Service's corporate headquarters to Parramatta**.

Department of Public Works and Services

The **Parramatta Government Property Strategy** is a whole-of-government approach to the co-ordination and redevelopment of properties under the ownership of five Government agencies. With a development program valued at over \$500 million, the Strategy is a bold attempt to link the planning and transport policy platforms for Western Sydney with major new development opportunities, thus stimulating investment and employment growth. The Strategy involves the delivery of new Government office accommodation, a justice precinct containing up to 21 courts, community health care facilities, an educational precinct, a new facility for the NSW Heritage Office, a tourism and leisure precinct as well as residential development. Work to refurbish the Old King's School for the new NSW Heritage Office headquarters commenced in 2001-02.

There are four key Government sites in this Strategy, namely the Civic Centre, the Parramatta Hospital, the Marsden Rehabilitation Centre and the North Parramatta site. It is estimated that the Strategy will provide 3,600 construction jobs and 5,400 jobs in allied areas.

The Treasurer has approved Strategy funding of **\$2.3 million** in 2002-03. Priorities include demolition work, archaeology studies, planning for health services relocation, new NSW Heritage Office headquarters and six new Children's Courts. The capital funds for construction of the buildings will be provided by the individual Government agencies.

Roads and Transport

In 2002-03, it is anticipated that the Government will spend more than **\$663 million** on Western Sydney **roads and public transport infrastructure**, including:

- ◆ \$181 million towards the construction of 141 new Millennium trains;
- ◆ \$80.8 million on construction of the Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway;
- ◆ \$20.1 for the development and construction of other Transitways;
- ◆ \$63 million to upgrade Windsor Road and Old Windsor Road including:
 - ◆ widening Windsor Road, Roxborough Park Road to Showground Road;
 - ◆ Old Windsor Road at Seven Hills Road, intersection reconstruction;
 - ◆ widening from Norbrik to Celebration Drive;
 - ◆ widening from Sunnyholt Road to Merriville Road;
 - ◆ widening from Merriville Road to Boundary Road; and
 - ◆ Hawkesbury Nepean Flood Strategy upgrade of Windsor Road between Henry Road and Curtis Road and South Creek Crossing.
- ◆ \$14 million to widen the Great Western Highway at Lawson and Leura;
- ◆ \$18 million to widen Hoxton Park Road between Brickmakers Creek and Banks Roads (including Transitway lanes);
- ◆ \$4.6 million to upgrade The Horsley Drive between Elizabeth Street and Mimosa Road;
- ◆ \$17.8 million to widen Cowpasture Road to 4 lanes between North Liverpool Road and Elizabeth Drive;

- ◆ \$118 million for rail infrastructure maintenance throughout Western Sydney;
- ◆ \$4 million on new rail turnback facilities in the Padstow area and on the East Hills Line;
- ◆ \$6 million on the amplification of the Richmond rail line between Marayong and Quakers Hill;
- ◆ \$7.5 million to improve the rail service reliability between Glenfield and Campbelltown;
- ◆ \$2 million on investigation of the Epping to Castle Hill rail line;
- ◆ \$12 million for train stabling and servicing facilities at Blacktown;
- ◆ \$17.5 million on improving access to CityRail stations at Cabramatta, Clyde, Granville, Guildford, Fairfield, Holsworthy, Marayong, Mt Druitt and Padstow and a new station at the University of Western Sydney, Werrington;
- ◆ \$7.9 million for improved interchange facilities at a number of locations, including Mt Druitt and at various car parks, including Wentworthville;
- ◆ \$4.6 million for new rail cars to service outer suburban areas, including the Blue Mountains;
- ◆ \$5.8 million to construct the Parramatta to Granville Cycleway; and
- ◆ more than \$79 million on road maintenance, traffic management and road safety works.

\$222 million is forecast to be spent in 2002-03 on the Parramatta Rail Link project for work on the Parramatta station interchange and the Epping-Chatswood link.

In addition, work on the \$1.25 billion, 39 kilometre Western Sydney Orbital Road is expected to start in late 2002, following planning approval granted from the NSW Government in February 2002. The Federal Government has allocated \$356 million towards construction of the National Highway project and the remainder will be provided by the private sector, financed by a road user toll. The approval is subject to 223 conditions to protect local communities and the environment, including the provision in the road's design to accommodate public transport facilities. A vacant space in the centre of the eight-lane road will be protected for future public transport routes.

The Waterways Authority will spend a total of **\$120,000** in 2002-03 on a common-user small boat storage, service and launching area adjacent to the Homebush Bay Ferry Wharf, on wharf maintenance at Charles Street, Parramatta and John Street, Rydalmere and on the construction of a public pontoon at Governor Philip Reserve boat ramp, Windsor.

Sport and Recreation

The Government has allocated **\$16.2 million** for the **construction of a drag racing facility at Eastern Creek**. This investment will generate significant business related activities and employment opportunities for the people of Western Sydney. **\$1.5 million** has also been allocated for the upgrade of **seating at Parramatta Stadium**.

Government Trading Enterprises and State owned Corporations

As part of its \$2 billion WaterPlan 21, **Sydney Water** anticipates spending more than **\$160 million** on a water and sewer infrastructure program in Western Sydney in 2002-03. This includes upgrades to sewage pumping stations and treatment plants, as well as sewerage connections for over 5,000 properties. The program will improve public health, reduce environmental impacts and create over 400 jobs in Western Sydney. Key 2002-03 initiatives are:

- ◆ the upgrade of approximately 40 sewage pumping stations to reduce the adverse impacts on public health of dry weather sewerage overflows (\$36 million);
- ◆ the upgrade and amplification of sewage treatment plants and transfer pipes in the Georges River Catchment to improve river water quality, reduce sewerage overflows and promote the use of recycled water by industries (\$28 million);
- ◆ the Priority Sewerage Program, providing sewerage services to 2,250 properties in The Oaks/Oakdale villages and Mulgoa/Wallacia/Silverdale villages. This program will reduce the impact of sewerage run-off on public health and water quality in the Hawkesbury-Nepean river systems (\$8 million);
- ◆ the Blue Mountains Sewerage Scheme providing sewerage services to 3,000 properties to further reduce the environmental impacts of urban living on the Blue Mountains (\$10 million);
- ◆ the upgrade and amplification of the Penrith, West Camden and Richmond Sewage Treatment Plants, to provide safe swimming conditions for Western Sydney residents, minimise the environmental impacts of urban development and contribute to the elimination of sewage-induced algal blooms in the Hawkesbury-Nepean river systems (\$39.8 million);
- ◆ renewal of water mains to ensure the reliable provision of water supply to customers and to minimise the environmental impacts of main breaks and leakage (\$15 million);
- ◆ relining and renewal of sewer mains, to minimise leakage and disruption to customers and to reduce the risk of environmental damage (\$21.3 million); and
- ◆ improving the reliability of sewerage treatment plants to increase efficiency and reduce environmental damage (\$11 million).

The **Sydney Catchment Authority** will continue the \$150 million Warragamba Dam major upgrade in 2002-03 with expenditure in the order of **\$20 million**. The Authority will also allocate around **\$19 million** for the renewal of capital assets at Warragamba Dam, Warragamba Pipelines, Blue Mountains Dams, metropolitan dams, upper canal and Prospect Reservoir.

Integral Energy will invest nearly **\$95 million** in capital works for Western Sydney, which will include further work on specific projects benefiting Parramatta, the Hawkesbury area, Penrith and Blacktown.

EnergyAustralia estimates that its expenditure in 2002-03, on electricity distribution capital works in the Bankstown and Auburn local government areas, will be **\$4.5 million**.

Landcom will continue to release strategic industrial land in 2002-03 to provide local employment opportunities. At Ingleburn, 35 sites totalling 20 hectares and ranging in size from 2,000 square metres to 1.5 hectares will be available. A further 30 sites at Smeaton Grange, totalling eight hectares, will be available. **\$6 million** will be expended on infrastructure development for these lands and together, they have the potential to generate around 550 jobs. Chullora Technology Park, one of the premier business parks in south western Sydney, is also being developed by Landcom. The 240 hectare site, serviced by the Chullora Freight Terminal, continues to attract significant levels of new investment.

In 2002-03, Landcom will create approximately 820 home sites in Western Sydney with expenditure of around **\$29 million**. In addition, a further **\$5 million** has been allocated by Landcom to continue water, sewer and trunk drainage **infrastructure for the Rouse Hill Regional Centre**.

State and Regional Development and Tourism

The Department of State and Regional Development will fund the **Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board** to the extent of **\$100,000** in 2002-03. The Board will continue to advise the Government on the economic development of the region. In addition, over **\$500,000** will be made available to eligible small and medium businesses in Western Sydney through the **Small Business Expansion and High Growth Business Programs**.

The **Industries Assistance Fund** will continue to provide support for businesses in Western Sydney that are expanding and creating new jobs. The Department of State and Regional Development assists business through project facilitation and financial assistance. Project facilitation includes planning approvals liaison/advocacy, assistance with project requirements (including industry information), strategic advice on Government processes, issues resolution and business networking. In 2002-03, the Department anticipates that approximately **\$500,000** in financial assistance will be provided to Western Sydney projects through the fund. The Department will also provide small business advice to new business starters and newly established businesses through **Small Business Advisory Centres** at Blacktown, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Parramatta and Penrith at an estimated cost of almost **\$400,000**.

The Business Centre, Parramatta provides a complete service to the Greater Western Sydney business community. The Centre's team of business development managers provides expert advice and help to deliver the Department's programs. The centre hosts regular business seminars and briefings as well as provides business and industry databases and other resources to assist small businesses. 70 events are planned for the Centre during 2002-03.

The Government is committed to spending \$16 million on the **redevelopment** of the historic town of **Katoomba** in the Blue Mountains and the nearby major tourism attraction, the **Echo Point Lookout**. Some 1.4 million tourists visit Echo Point each year, making it one of the most visited sites in the State. With its annual value of around \$340 million per annum to the Blue Mountains, tourism is important for the creation of jobs in the region. In 2002-03, expenditure on these redevelopment projects is estimated at **\$4.9 million**.

In 2002-03, **\$338,000** will be expended by Tourism New South Wales on **Western Sydney tourism development**. The State Transit Authority operates 18 Parramatta Explorer tourism bus services a day on weekends.

Skills Development and Resources

Funding levels in 2002-03 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 **\$280 million** in 2002-03.

An estimated \$10 million will be available to support Industry Training Programs in Western Sydney during 2002-03, through the various programs delivered by the Program Field Units within the Department of Education and Training's Industry Training Service Centres located at Bankstown, Liverpool and Parramatta. The South Western Sydney Education and Training Centre which is being constructed in Liverpool at a cost of \$10 million, will provide a dynamic and responsive learning environment for employer-based training through its integration of vocational and professional education in high growth sectors of the local economy. The centre, when completed in late 2002, will be a one-stop shop for commercial clients.

An additional \$15 million will be made available State-wide for teacher quality and teacher supply initiatives. This includes additional teacher scholarships, retraining and accelerated teacher training programs. Students in Government schools in Western Sydney will benefit from this initiative.

Information Technology

The fastest growing industry projected from 1999 to 2005 in Western Sydney is Information Technology-Communications. Western Sydney has Australia's largest cluster of IT companies outside the North Sydney-North Ryde corridor and has the largest number of the nation's Australian-owned IT companies. This number is expected to increase by one-third by 2005.

The **connect.nsw program** is a whole-of-government strategy for the use of information and communications technology to streamline internal government practices, reduce costs and improve service delivery for the NSW community. The program provides an integrated approach to the delivery of government services over a range of multi-media channels including the Internet, telephone, using Interactive Voice Response, mobile devices, e-mail, faxback, call centre, digital TV and over the counter. A trial of interactive television has been established in the Cranebrook housing estate through connect.nsw to improve access to online services and information. In 2002-03, the connect.nsw program will focus on initiatives that significantly shift NSW towards seamless government service delivery, including online services that support life-events such as the birth of a child, marriage or moving house.

The Government has established the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Project Development Centre at Parramatta as an incubator for strategic, multi-agency government initiatives that are aimed at improving electronic service delivery, community access to Government services and fostering skills exchange across government and industry. Major multi-agency programs that have commenced at the Development Centre include the \$32 million **connectingBusiness** and the \$13.8 million **Better Service Delivery Program**.

The four-year connectingBusiness project will streamline business and occupational licensing processes across NSW Government agencies. The program will initially focus on five business licensing agencies: the Department of Fair Trading, the Department of Gaming and Racing, Health Professionals Registration Boards, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the WorkCover Authority. The first phase will allow almost half a million NSW businesses to start renewing their business names online. The second phase will deliver a new licensing system to replace the 70 different systems currently in use. It is planned that the new system will be progressively introduced to licensing agencies, thereby providing a single online entry point for business licence applications, renewals and payments.

The Better Service Delivery Program will provide co-ordinated, high quality and professional client referral services between government agencies in the Human Services sector (such as the Department of Community Services, the Department of Housing and the Department of Health) and non-government organisations, including organisations in Western Sydney.

The joint Government-Industry \$63 million **NSW ICT Skills Action Plan** was launched at the NSW Centre of Excellence for e-Business in Parramatta in 2001. The Office of Information Technology will continue to work with industry, Government agencies and community organisations to implement the plan. In 2002-03, a number of projects, including the establishment of a Computer Re-use Program, developing an ICT Skills Web Gateway, ICT skills training for seniors and developing and co-ordinating an ICT skills community awareness campaign, will be implemented throughout NSW.

The Government portal www.nsw.gov.au (**ServiceNSW**) is the community's one stop Internet entry point to NSW Government services and information. The website provides a seven day, 24 hour access to more than 2,000 links to government information and services. Work will continue in 2002-03 on customer-focussed enhancements and the inclusion of online services.

Agriculture

Agriculture in the Sydney Basin (Western Sydney and the Hornsby Shire) creates economic activity worth some \$4.4 billion per annum and around 11,500 on-farm jobs. The farm gate value of the food, landscape and floral agricultural industries for the area exceeds \$1.069 billion per annum or 14 percent of the State's agricultural production.

Research, advisory, education and regulatory services will continue to be provided in 2002-03 to the diverse and intensive **Western Sydney agricultural industries** by NSW Agriculture staff based at Windsor (District Office), Camden (Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute), Richmond (Organic Waste Recycling Unit), Flemington (Regulatory Office) and Gosford (Horticultural Research and Advisory Station and Centre for Greenhouse Agriculture which supports research, development and education for the cut flower and fruit and vegetable industries of Western Sydney). The budget for the region is **\$31.5 million**.

Arts

A Strategy for the Arts in Western Sydney is a joint initiative of the Ministry for the Arts and the Office of Western Sydney. 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;
- ◆ assist artists in Western Sydney achieve their full potential;
- ◆ increase participation in the arts by people in Western Sydney;
- ◆ support and nurture the arts industry in Western Sydney; and
- ◆ encourage regional cultural development.

In February 2002, the Premier announced a major funding package in Western Sydney. It provides for nearly \$19.4 million to be spent on new venues and the rebuilding of galleries, theatres and museums in:

- ◆ Campbelltown City Bicentennial Art Gallery, \$3.2 million for a new entrance, theatrette and café, plus additional storage and a bigger loading dock;
- ◆ Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, \$3.2 million for a new 300 seat theatre, climate controlled gallery, car park, café, retail outlet and an expansion of exhibition space;
- ◆ Parramatta Riverside Theatres, \$1.8 million to replace all 696 existing seats in the Riverside Theatre, 127 new seats in the centre's smaller theatres, improved foyer, entrance and courtyard and new lighting and sound equipment;
- ◆ Penrith Regional Gallery and Lewers Bequest, \$1.65 million for a new gallery, café, research library and archive;
- ◆ Bankstown City Council Town Hall, \$1.5 million for rehearsal, performance and office space and storage for local professional arts companies;
- ◆ Blacktown City Council Arts Centre, \$500,000 for Western Sydney's first contemporary multi-arts space in the former Anglican church, with performing arts and rehearsal space, storage, offices and backstage facilities;

- ◆ Hawkesbury Regional Museum, Windsor, \$1.15 million for construction and fit-out of a new purpose-built regional museum to house the historical society's collection with space for travelling exhibitions; and
- ◆ Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith, \$6.4 million to double the size of the centre and provide a purpose-built home for Penrith's Railway Street Theatre (\$4.5 million announced in March 2001 and a further \$1.9 million in January 2002).

The Premier also announced the transfer of the Rouse Hill Public School to the historic Rouse Hill Estate (\$1.75 million). The 5.1 hectare Linnwood Hall site in Guildford will be preserved with its transfer to the NSW Heritage Office. The Heritage Office is working with the local community to develop a plan for the future of the site.

In 2002-03, the NSW Ministry for the Arts will allocate:

- ◆ **\$500,000** for the second year funding commitment for **Western Sydney Capital Infrastructure**;
- ◆ **\$500,000** for **implementation of the *Strategy for the Arts in Western Sydney***, including the Western Sydney Artists Fellowships Fund (third instalment of \$1.3 million over three years);
- ◆ a further **\$500,000** towards implementation of the Strategy, including \$250,000 for salaries of professional staff in venues funded in the major capital infrastructure announced in February 2002; and

Additionally, the **Powerhouse Museum** will receive **\$2 million** for the relocation of storage facilities from Ultimo to Castle Hill (in excess of \$10.86 million project over four years).

Energy Exploration

Sydney Gas has lodged a Development Application and an Environmental Impact Statement for the commercial production of coal-bed methane in the Camden and Wollondilly local government areas. Following the completion of the period for public consultation on 8 March 2002, PlanningNSW has prepared an assessment report for consideration by the Minister for Planning, who is the consent authority for this proposal.

Living Centres Program

In 2002-03, the **Metropolitan Living Centres** expects to spend **\$836,200** on programs in the Greater Homebush and the Parramatta to Chatswood Rail Corridor areas. Up to \$600,000 in further funding has been earmarked towards capital works in these areas. This represents a total commitment of \$3.877 million over three years towards job creation, strong communities and sustainable growth. Specifically, the focus is on maximising the planning opportunities associated with the creation of the new rail line, the effect on the Parramatta central business district of the Parramatta Transport Interchange and maximising development opportunities in the Olympic Park – Parramatta corridor.

3.2 SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Health

NSW Health continues to be a major component of the State Budget with the Government planning to spend **\$1.4 billion** on **better health services** for the residents of Western Sydney in 2002-03, an increase of some \$120 million. This funding will be for new and upgraded hospitals, obstetric services, palliative care and other health services. Recurrent funding for the Western Sydney Area Health Service will rise by \$63 million to almost \$620 million and includes \$26 million to enable it to continue in its role of the State-wide program leader for breast screening and cervical cancer services. Funding for South Western Sydney Area Health Service will increase by \$42 million to \$552 million and Wentworth Area Health Service by some \$15 million to \$227 million.

A wide range of health services are provided in Western Sydney, including health promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. These programs aim to ensure that 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. In addition, equitable access to health services will continue to be provided to people in Western Sydney who come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, including Aboriginal people, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and people with disabilities.

Major new capital projects commencing in 2002-03 in Western Sydney include:

- ◆ **Nepean Hospital Emergency Department Redevelopment and Extension** (estimated cost \$8.6 million). This project will meet expanding service needs and will accommodate acute treatment areas, paediatric treatment areas, a short stay/observation ward and administrative and public facilities (**\$1.8 million** estimated expenditure in 2002-03);
- ◆ **Liverpool Hospital Emergency/Trauma Department Expansion** (estimated cost \$9.1 million). This project will provide additional space for paediatric services and the relocation of Pharmacy to the Don Everett Building (**\$1.4 million** estimated expenditure in 2002-03); and
- ◆ **Blue Mountains Hospital Clinical and Inpatient Units Redevelopment** (estimated cost \$6 million). This project will involve consolidation of ward areas, relocation and expansion of the dental unit, new mortuary, upgrade of outreach and clinical support services located on campus, engineering works, provision of adequate parking, fire safety upgrade and the construction of a new helipad. (**\$1 million** estimated expenditure in 2002-03).

The Asset Acquisition Program also provides for the continuation of major upgrading/redevelopment works and major projects to proceed to contract in 2002-03, including:

- ◆ continuation of the **Macarthur Sector Strategy**: redevelopment of Camden Hospital; the upgrading of Campbelltown Hospital; and a child care centre in Camden/Wollondilly (**\$16 million**);
- ◆ **Liverpool Mental Health Facilities** (**\$4 million**);
- ◆ **Blue Mountains Acute Inpatient Unit** (**\$2.5 million**);
- ◆ **Blue Mountains Hospital Hydrotherapy** (**\$400,000**);
- ◆ **Fairfield/Liverpool Community Mental Health Services** (**\$1.6 million**);
- ◆ **Neonatal Emergency Transport** (**\$4.3 million**);

- ◆ **Westmead Ambulatory Procedures Centre (\$3.3 million);**
- ◆ **Westmead Hospital Breast Centre (\$2.4 million); and**
- ◆ **Western Sydney Strategy (Westmead/Auburn Hospitals) (\$7.1 million).**

Proposed major works being planned are: the **Liverpool Mental Health Service** to provide a 50-bed In-patient Unit and ambulatory care at Liverpool Hospital and Area-wide mental health administration, with construction to commence in mid 2003; and the **Western Sydney Strategy**, approved at a cost of \$178.5 million over six years, involving a major upgrade of the Westmead campus in the areas of rehabilitation, allied health, cancer care, cardiac services, maternity, imaging, operating theatres and patient wards, the upgrade of Auburn Hospital, expansion of psycho-geriatric services at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn and the re-development of services provided by Lottie Stewart Hospital, Dundas.

All communities within Western Sydney will benefit from a number of major "whole of health" initiatives commencing in 2002-03, including:

- ◆ a major metropolitan planning initiative, led by clinicians, has resulted in enhancements of some \$60 million per annum being provided throughout the Sydney metropolitan area plus health services in the Illawarra, Hunter and the Central Coast. Funding will provide a range of specialist services, such as severe burns, brain injury and spinal cord injury in these areas. Services such as cardiac, bone marrow transplantation and stroke units will be increased. Funding to district metropolitan hospitals will be boosted to provide a greater range of health care services to their resident communities;
- ◆ additional funding to increase the number of occasion of services for podiatry; and
- ◆ implementation of a Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program across the State utilising new technologies to test the hearing of every baby born in New South Wales from 1 December 2002.

NSW Health will provide significant recurrent funding to maintain and expand specialised health services in Western Sydney in 2002-03. These will include:

- ◆ an increase of some \$11 million, to around **\$150 million**, for **Mental Health Services** in Western Sydney. This funding will support the employment of over 100 additional clinical staff in Western Sydney. The Department of Health and the Area Health Services, in consultation with educational institutions and professional bodies, are developing strategies for recruitment of qualified mental health clinicians. Over \$3 million has been allocated to support mental health clinical training programs in Western Sydney. The additional funding will be applied to expand community-based services for children and adolescents. Planning networks between Area Mental Health Services are also being developed to improve the access of young people and adults to appropriate in-patient care. The funding will support six additional beds at Cumberland Hospital, whilst longer term plans for the commissioning of new in-patient facilities in Liverpool and the Blue Mountains are being developed;
- ◆ **\$700,000** will be provided for **mental health assessment units** at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre and Mulawa Correctional Centre in 2002-03 (increasing to \$3.3 million per annum with effect from 2004-05);

- ◆ **Dental Services** will be allocated an estimated **\$33 million**, an increase of \$3.4 million over the previous year. In the three year period 2000-01 to 2002-03, funding for Dental Services has been increased significantly. Dental funding to Western Sydney, Wentworth and South Western Sydney Area Health Services will have increased by \$2.9 million (16 percent), \$585,000 (25 percent) and \$3.74 million (80 percent) respectively, over 1999-2000 funding levels. The enhancement funds will allow completion of the information system for oral health and the provision of improved access to emergency and relief of pain services within the Priority Oral Health Program. In addition, Area Health Services and Oral Health Networks are expected to demonstrate a strategic and co-ordinated approach to improving access to individuals and communities identified at high risk of oral disease with an emphasis on aged persons and pre-school children;
- ◆ the **Rehabilitation and Extended Care Program** will be allocated an estimated **\$183 million**. 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;
- ◆ as part of the State-wide **Intensive Care Plan**, which incorporates an agreed networking model for optimising use of intensive care beds, **\$3.4 million** is being allocated in 2002-03 for the establishment of four new intensive care beds at Westmead Hospital and an additional one at Liverpool Hospital. In the period from April 2000 to June 2003, 16 new intensive care beds will have been created in Western Sydney;
- ◆ **Emergency Department Services** within Western Sydney receive an additional **\$2.7 million** per annum, effective from 2000-01. These funds are being used to assist in the reduction of waiting times for patients being seen in the Emergency Departments, as well as improving access to in-patient beds for those people requiring ongoing hospital care; and
- ◆ the **Westmead Millennium Research Institute** will receive **\$1 million**, as part of Phase 2 development of the Westmead Research Hub. Phase 2 will increase the physical space available for conducting research and will provide facilities for research into genetic epidemiology, vision, transplantation, infectious disease and microbiology, viral vectors for gene therapy and viral vaccines, as well as four new laboratories for existing research.

The **NSW Ambulance Service** operates 21 stations and employs 453 staff to serve the Western Sydney community. Ambulance Service expenditure in 2002-03 is estimated at **\$36 million**, an increase of \$1.3 million from the previous year. During 2002, the Service will complete a State-wide review of its service provisions with the aim of improving delivery of core ambulance services.

Drug and Alcohol Services

The **Premier's Department** is the lead agency for the implementation of two major strategies of the *NSW Government Plan of Action* arising from the NSW Drug Summit in 1999. Through the **Drugs and Community Action Strategy**, the Government is helping to set up local teams and partnerships called Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) to work on responding to, and taking action on drug related concerns in the community. This Strategy also works on a regional basis to develop whole-of-government responses to drugs issues. Close to **\$300,000** will be spent in Western Sydney in 2002-03 on the Strategy. The Community Drug Information Strategy ensures that Government communication on drug-related issues is effective and also supports the activities of the Drugs and Communication Strategy.

Regional project management structures have been put in place in Western Sydney to implement the strategy. In 2002-03, the strategy will continue to develop and support the 12 CDATs which have been established in the region. The Western Sydney Regional Advisory Committee comprises members from the major human service agencies, local government, non-government organisations and the community. The Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Premier's Department for the Drugs and Community Action Strategy seed fund applications and is developing a number of regional projects to reduce drug related harm.

In March 2001, the Premier announced a further plan to address drug and crime problems in Cabramatta, the **Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy**. Additional funding of \$18.8 million has been allocated by the NSW Government over four years to implement the Strategy. In April 2002, the Government released a progress report on the implementation of the Strategy. The document also contains the Government response to the recommendations of the Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No 3 report into Cabramatta Policing. **\$4.6 million** will be spent on implementing the Strategy in 2002-03.

In 2002-03, the **Department of Health** will continue to provide significant additional operating funding for **Drug and Alcohol Services** in Western Sydney, to include:

- ◆ the 16 bed **Wentworth Area Health Service detoxification unit** - budget of **\$1.74 million**;
- ◆ **\$2 million** for expansion of the **pharmacotherapy treatment services** and for case management of additional patients in treatment with methadone and buprenorphine;
- ◆ **\$2.5 million** allocation to support the health components of the **Government's Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy**, which consist of an assessment team, transitional rehabilitation, methadone dispensing and acute mental health care;
- ◆ **\$180,000** in Drug Summit funding for the employment of a Service Access and Data Co-ordinator in each Area Health Service to improve **information relating to access and the provision of drug treatment services**;
- ◆ **\$540,000** to the three Area Health Services in the region for a **General Practitioner liaison position** to encourage general practitioners to become more aware of drug and alcohol problems and more skilled in primary treatment and appropriate referral;
- ◆ around **\$1.8 million** for the **Youth Drug Court Diversion Program**. NSW Health supports this program through its Induction and Stabilisation Unit, which opened in December 2001. The unit, through the South Western Sydney Area Health Service, provides intensive assistance to disturbed and drug dependant juveniles who have multiple health and welfare problems. Funds are also provided to Government and non-government organisations to conduct day programs for juveniles; and
- ◆ **\$2.3 million** to support the **Adult Drug Court Diversion Program** operated through the Parramatta Drug Court. The three Area Health Services in the region provide intensive health interventions aimed at improving health outcomes for adults referred from the Drug Court.

The **Department of Community Services** will provide the following services in 2002-03 that focus on implementing strategies from the Drug Summit:

- ◆ **Youth Drug Court Program - \$1.09 million** ; and
- ◆ **\$500,000** for the **Getting it Together Scheme Program** in Cabramatta, Campbelltown, Penrith and Mt Druitt.

The **Attorney General's portfolio** will continue the **Adult Drug Court Program** at Parramatta with over **\$2 million** allocated in 2002-03. In addition, the **Legal Aid Commission** anticipates allocating **\$320,000** for the conduct of matters under the **Parramatta Drug Court Program**.

Education and Training

The Department of Education and Training co-ordinates the delivery of education and training services across New South Wales, with responsibilities for: Early Childhood and Primary Education; Secondary Education; Vocational Education and Training; Higher Education; and Adult and Community Education.

Quality education programs and student services are provided in Western Sydney for more than 136,400 students in Government primary schools and 85,900 secondary students and through 18 TAFE NSW Western Sydney colleges. There are now 105,800 students studying at the Western and South-Western Sydney Institutes of TAFE alone, a 30 percent increase since 1998. A further 23,216 students are enrolled at the Bankstown, Lidcombe and Padstow colleges within the Southern Sydney TAFE Institute. New South Wales Government schools and TAFE NSW, Australia's leading vocational education and training provider, offer relevant and flexible courses of study that meet students' needs and help prepare them for a secure future.

In 2002-03, the Department of Education and Training estimates that in Western Sydney it will commit:

- ◆ approximately **\$1.63 billion in operating costs** for primary and secondary schools;
- ◆ over **\$68 million** on major **capital works projects** for schools in Western Sydney;
- ◆ **\$36.7 million** on **school building maintenance**;
- ◆ approximately **\$280 million operating costs** for the three **TAFE Institutes** in Western Sydney; and
- ◆ **\$7.8 million** for the **development and refurbishment of TAFE facilities**.

The Department will continue to implement its **Computers in Schools Program**, which to-date has provided schools in Western Sydney with more than \$43.7 million worth of computer equipment. During 2002-03, **\$11 million** will be allocated to schools in Western Sydney under this program. In addition, over **\$6 million** will be provided to schools and TAFE colleges in Western Sydney for the provision of E-mail and a range of Internet and collaborative services for students and teachers. This includes remote access from home for students and teachers to filtered Internet services, web hosting facilities and helpdesk to support these services.

Funding will also be provided State-wide in 2002-03 for Network Bandwidth comprising \$31 million in recurrent funding and \$25 million in capital funding. This initiative will progressively upgrade bandwidth in schools and TAFE colleges, using available technology including government owned infrastructure and a range of telecommunication carriers. Students in Government schools in Western Sydney will benefit from this initiative.

Western Sydney schools will also be provided with a **Computer Co-ordinator's Grant** of **\$5.6 million** and a **Technology Grant** of **\$4.1 million**. **\$843,500** will be allocated to the **Technology in Learning and Teaching Program** in 2002-03 to provide technology training to teachers working in Western Sydney.

Over **\$17.1 million** will be made available for **Back-to-School Allowance** payments to families in Western Sydney in 2002-03 to assist them in meeting the costs of schooling their children.

In 2002-03, over **\$36 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. These strategies include:

- ◆ all districts in Western Sydney have the professional services of K-8 literacy and mathematics consultants. Each consultant works with both primary and secondary teachers to ensure the continuity of students' literacy and numeracy development from Stages 1 to 4;
- ◆ the **Counting On Program** addresses the needs of students who have difficulty in demonstrating mathematics outcomes for Year 6. The program will operate in 27 secondary schools and 67 related primary schools;
- ◆ the **Count Me In Too Program** will support the effective professional development of Western Sydney primary teachers in teaching numeracy;
- ◆ by using assessment programs, resources continue to be targeted to students in Western Sydney who most need support for literacy and numeracy learning;
- ◆ all school districts in Western Sydney are implementing **Literacy and Numeracy Follow Up**, which supports teachers to improve the literacy and numeracy achievements of students identified as being in need of additional assistance;
- ◆ allocations to 94 targeted primary schools in Western Sydney to assist students identified as requiring additional support;
- ◆ eight Linkages Consultants will continue to manage and support **48 Linkages** initiatives in Western Sydney. This initiative involves approximately 200 primary and secondary schools and support teachers of students in Years 5-8 to ensure that students' literacy and numeracy development is maintained and extended in the middle years. The program will be extended in 2003;
- ◆ **Assessment in Mathematics and English in Stage 2 and Stage 3**. Program materials will be distributed to all schools in Western Sydney in 2002, with support for their implementation given by district consultants; and
- ◆ **Consistent Teacher Judgement Program** will be implemented in 2002-03 in Western Sydney schools.

The **Parents as Teachers Program** will continue to operate in Western Sydney at Sadleir and Madang Avenue (Mount Druitt) Public Schools, with funding of approximately **\$150,000** in 2002-03.

Approximately **\$400,000** will be made available to pilot the **Primary Connect** project for vulnerable young people in the Fairfield and Macquarie Fields communities in 2002-03. **\$7.1 million** will be provided to **socio-economically disadvantaged schools** in Western Sydney. These schools are supported by an additional 109 teachers. 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.

\$312,000 will be allocated for the **TAFE Youth at Risk Program** in the region in 2002-03 to provide support for the most disadvantaged young people in the community by engaging them in education and training and providing pathways to further education or employment. An estimated **\$600,000** will be provided to schools in Western Sydney, to enable year 9 to 12 students to develop **individual school to work plans**. **\$200,000** will be provided to the nine Western Sydney school districts to implement locally devised strategies to **improve the work readiness of students** and **\$50,000** will be provided to support the organisation of **interactive careers expos** in Western Sydney. **\$500,000** will be provided by the Board of Vocational Education and Training (VET) for **work placement co-ordination programs** to organise structured work placements for students undertaking HSC VET courses. Around **\$4.1 million** will be expended by schools in Western Sydney under the **VET in Schools Program** for the provision of vocational training by both TAFE and private providers.

In 2002-03, the **TAFE NSW Scholarship Scheme** will support further study to all young people who have successfully completed vocational education and training courses as part of their HSC over years 11 and 12. **\$290,000** will be available, to students in government secondary schools in Western Sydney to undertake **study of languages overseas**.

The **Department of Housing** is working with TAFE NSW to provide pre-vocational training in the building industry for up to 20 residents in Toongabbie. Handy persons, three of whom are tenants of the Department, have been employed in Bidwill, Cranebrook, Toongabbie and Telopea. Landscaping traineeships are being offered to residents to undertake landscaping of properties being upgraded through the **Community Renewal Strategy**.

The **Live 'N Learn Foundation** is an innovative Department of Housing project that will provide opportunities for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to access secure housing linked to training and work. The first campus in Miller is planned to provide opportunities for up to 30 young people. The support of the private sector will be a critical element, particularly in creating the chances for young people from difficult backgrounds to get work experience, training and jobs.

Women

The Government continues to work towards improving opportunities for women in Western Sydney. The **Department for Women** plays an important role in information delivery and community education by promoting the position of women in all aspects of society and challenging stereotypes of women. The Department provides the following services to benefit women in Western Sydney: Women's Information Referral Service, providing a free 1800 number for women where referral can be made for a large variety of women's needs; A website www.women.nsw.gov.au providing information on current activities of the Department as well as access to publications available from the agency; Women's Gateway, a portal maintained by the Department for Women and complements the 1800 free toll number by enabling women to access information for their needs, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, via the Internet; and the services of one officer specifically to undertake the Department's commitment to Western Sydney.

In 2002-03, the Department for Women has allocated \$1 million under the State-wide **Women's Grants Program** and it is anticipated that a significant portion of this will be allocated to key projects in Western Sydney. In addition, the Department has allocated **\$10,000** for sponsorship of the Western Sydney IT Start Up Award, an initiative of the Office of Western Sydney. This *Woman of the West Award*, is open to women who have a realistic, marketable and business-like idea capable of being commercialised over a twelve month period. Winners receive cash and professional business planning advice to help them commercialise their IT projects.

NSW Health will provide approximately **\$10 million** for **Women's Health Services** in Western Sydney during 2002-03. Services will include: over **\$4 million** to be expended by BreastScreen NSW for **breast cancer screening and assessment services**, providing 65,000 screening mammograms for women over 40 years of age; **\$300,000** for projects to encourage women to have **regular pap smears** every two years and to support pap test screening by general practitioners; **\$4.7 million** to non-government organisations to be expended on a range of women's health services, including cancer prevention, counselling and interventions, anti-violence strategies and support and smoking reduction programs for young women; and around **\$600,000** to be provided to the three regional Area Health Services for a range of activities in the areas of training, health promotion and co-ordination. Specific groups targeted are women who have experienced sexual assault or domestic violence, older women, and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In addition, **\$200,000** will be allocated to the Western Area Health Service to provide the NSW Education Program on female genital mutilation. **\$97,000** will be expended on projects that are aimed at improving safety for women and providing innovative service delivery health models for Aboriginal women.

The **Department of Community Services** will continue to provide joint Commonwealth/State funding for services to meet the needs of women in Western Sydney in 2002-03. These will include:

- ◆ more than \$5.4 million for 18 **refuges for women** escaping domestic violence; and
- ◆ almost \$1 million for seven **Women's Housing Programs** funded through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program.

In the past 10 years, Australia has witnessed a gender revolution in small business. According to the **Department of State and Regional Development**, women now own 35 percent of small businesses and jointly own 60 percent of small businesses in NSW. The number of women owning and operating small enterprises is increasing at three times the rate of men each year. If this ownership trend continues, it has been estimated that the majority of small businesses will be run by women by 2010. The Department's **Women in Business Mentor Program** has been allocated **\$18,000** in 2002-03 to assist approximately 36 Western Sydney businesswomen.

The **Legal Aid Commission** will continue to fund the **Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme** in Western Sydney in 2002-03 to the extent of more than **\$900,000**. The scheme, which operates at Bankstown, Blacktown, the Blue Mountains, Harris Park, Hawkesbury, Nepean, Liverpool, Fairfield, Campbelltown, Parramatta and Mt Druitt, provides support for women victims of domestic violence during the process of applying for an apprehended violence order.

Services for children and families

Commenced in July 1999, the **Families First Strategy** is designed to increase the support available to parents with children under eight years of age by developing a network of support services that families can access. Families First includes a number of key features such as: outreach and home visiting by midwives and early childhood nurses; providing parenting information and support for parents and carers; support for families with more complex needs; and community development activities to connect families with other families for support. The strategy involves NSW Health, the Department of Community Services, the Department of Housing, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care 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.

In 2002-03, **\$4.71 million** will be allocated to the strategy for prevention and early intervention services to support families in South Western Sydney. As a result of this strategy, an enhanced services network for families in South Western Sydney has developed which includes:

- ◆ a specific ante-natal home visiting service for Aboriginal families in Macarthur;
- ◆ early childhood nurse visits to women who have delivered their babies, within two weeks after discharge from hospital and where appropriate, links with other specialist services;
- ◆ over 12 extra nursing positions for home visits;
- ◆ linking of parents without their own family or friends to help with young children, to over 100 trained volunteer parents for support;
- ◆ the Campbelltown Family Support Service team visiting families under stress or who need help in parenting their children;
- ◆ funding to agencies such as the Northcott Society to provide a peer support program for families and children with disabilities;
- ◆ funding to the Bankstown Family Support Service, Liverpool Anglicare, Fairfield Centacare and Burnside Fairfield Family Support, to provide support to families with very young children;
- ◆ establishment of four Schools as Communities Centres in Fairfield and one each in Rosemeadow and Ashcroft, to encourage families to become involved in school and other local activities and to co-ordinate a range of services for families; and
- ◆ provision of supported playgroups in Bankstown, Fairfield and Liverpool.

In 2002-03, **\$1.81 million** will be allocated for Families First Strategy projects including Family Worker Services in the Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury regions. **\$1.02 million** has also been allocated to expand support services for families in Cumberland/Prospect.

The **Primary Connect Project** has been established to develop a model of service to enhance the capacity to intervene early with children and young people 'at risk' before their problems become entrenched. The project will be piloted with funding of **\$600,000** in 2002-03 at Miller, Macquarie Fields and Fairfield. The project uses schools as a non-stigmatising setting in which services for children and their families can be provided. The project will improve outcomes for children from five to twelve years of age by providing co-ordination and links between their schools and community services available to them and their families. The program is designed to help schools effectively identify children who are at risk of, or are experiencing disconnection from school, alcohol or drug use, offending, or mental health problems and to provide the necessary supports for these children and their families. It also considers the best way of achieving integration between families, schools and community services in culturally diverse and indigenous communities.

In July 2001, the NSW Government launched *Better Futures: An Action Framework for Vulnerable Young People in New South Wales*. Its central messages are that all young people should have the opportunity to lead rewarding and positive lives and that there are practical things that government, families and communities can do, working together, that can be helpful in minimising risk for vulnerable young people and in building resilience. The **Better Futures Regional Strategy** will focus on communities where young people are more vulnerable, helping these communities to reduce risk factors for young people and better meet their needs. State-wide, \$1.3 million has been allocated in 2002-03 for the implementation of the Strategy and a significant portion of these funds will be spent on disadvantaged communities in Western Sydney.

The goal of the **Department of Community Services** is to assist the empowerment of families, individuals and disadvantaged communities under stress, who require assistance, guidance or protection to enable them to participate in the community. The Department's priorities and funded programs include: child protection; out-of home care; adoption; family support; children's services; provision of community resources; the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program; the *Families First Strategy*; and disability services. In 2002-03, the Department's three Western Sydney offices' **operating expenditures** will be: **Penrith \$1.016 million; Parramatta \$1.631 million; and Campbelltown \$2.807 million.**

The **Community Services Grants Program** provides funds to community services that assist and support people who are disadvantaged to maintain their independence and enhance their quality of life. Funded organisations assist clients in the areas of child protection, family and individual support, community development and youth services. Services include community information, sexual assault counselling, the building of social capital, support to families in crisis and social support to young people. In 2002-03, **\$23.16 million** will be expended in Western Sydney on more than 370 projects under this program.

The **Supported Accommodation Assistance Program** is a joint Commonwealth/State program which aims to provide transitional supported accommodation and related support services to people who are homeless. In 2002-03, there will be an anticipated 100 projects, such as refuges, under the program in Western Sydney and the Department of Community Services' program allocation will be \$19.78 million.

The **Out-of-Home Care Program** provides essential foster and residential care services to support and care for children and young people who are no longer able to live at home with their family. In Western Sydney, the Department of Community Services will allocate **\$8.471 million** in 2002-03 for 35 projects under the program.

Funding through the **Children's Services Program** assists communities to provide child care and related services. The Department of Community Services does not directly provide child care but licenses and monitors child care services to make sure they comply with the NSW *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. It also plans and funds a range of services, either alone or in partnership with the Commonwealth, including preschools, long day care centres, occasional care centres, vacation care, mobile preschools, mobile child care services and early childhood services. In 2002-03, the Department will provide **\$20.167 million** in funding for 464 Children's Services projects in Western Sydney.

After School Youth Services at Penrith, Mt Druitt and Bankstown will be funded to the extent of **\$620,000** in 2002-03. These services provide safe and supportive places for young people to go after school. The Department will allocate **\$860,000** to strategies that **strengthen the links between families and their communities**. This will include funding to Schools as Community Centres projects which support parents raising children and help develop local support networks. These funds will assist families from non-English speaking backgrounds and Aboriginal families.

The Department of Community Services administers 13 **Community Services Centres**, three **Joint Investigation Teams** and two **Intensive Support Services** across Western Sydney, as well as the Cabramatta Street Team. These specialist units employ case workers to provide a range of child protection services and services to children and young people in care. The goal is to reconcile and strengthen family relationships, wherever possible, except where this would jeopardise the safety of the child. Expenditure for these units in 2002-03 will be **\$33.774 million**.

The role of the Department of Community Services in child protection is to receive, assess and act on reports of risk of harm to children in NSW. The Department also works with families and the Children's Court to keep children at home and safe, or if the risk is too great, to provide out-of-home care with kin or in an alternate family environment. The Department's Helpline applies call centre technology to the professional task of receiving and assessing reports and responding to requests for assistance State-wide, from parents, children or young people. Operations commenced in Western Sydney in December 2000 and the Helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its establishment has created an additional 130 case worker positions in Western Sydney. In 2002-03, the funding allocation for the **operation of the Helpline** will be **\$15.7 million**.

The Department of Community Services will also allocate **\$140,000** for **Youth Support Workers** in Auburn, Campbelltown, Parramatta and Liverpool. These workers are available primarily to vulnerable young people in the 12 to 17 age range and their families. They actively cater to young people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, as well as to those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and other disadvantaged communities. This strategy focuses on young people who are the most disadvantaged, including those who are at risk of homelessness, are experiencing violence, have a drug or alcohol dependency and those in the care of the Department.

The **Commission for Children and Young People** represents the interests of children and young people throughout New South Wales. In 2002-03 the Commission will continue to co-ordinate the employment screening process on people who will be working with children and young people and provide screening services to registered employers. Screening includes a national criminal records check and a check on all relevant completed disciplinary actions during the last five years. The Commission has published its kit "TAKING PARTicipation Seriously" to help organisations involve children and young people more meaningfully in their activities and decision making. In 2002-03, the Commission plans to develop and pilot two training courses in Western Sydney so that workers and managers of organisations can develop the skills and knowledge to apply the techniques and tools in the kit, to their own activities. The Commission will also continue its research and inquiry activities into issues impacting on the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people.

In 2002-03, the Attorney General's Department will commit **\$382,000** to continue the operation of the **Youth Drug Court** at the Children's Courts in Campbelltown and Cobham at Werrington.

The **Department of Juvenile Justice** has allocated funds to ensure the continuation of its core business initiatives in Western Sydney:

- **Juvenile Justice Centres** (Cobham at Werrington and Reiby at Airds) - **\$15.54 million**. Juvenile Justice Centres implement court ordered detention for juvenile offenders. These two centres have a combined capacity for 111 young people and offer various developmental programs including access to education and training, life skills development, specialist counselling and pre-release support services;
- **Juvenile Justice Community Services** at Blacktown, Campbelltown and Fairfield provide the courts with alternatives to custody - **\$4.2 million**;
- **Intensive Programs Unit** at Blacktown provides specialist counselling and development programs as an alternative to detention - **\$1.04 million**;
- **Youth Justice Conferencing Services** at Campbelltown, Blacktown, Fairfield and St Marys provide the courts with further alternatives to detention - **\$850,000**;
- **Community Based Support Services** – the Department funds a number of community organisations to provide appropriate services to its clients, their families and the community in Western Sydney - **\$800,000**;

- **Youth Drug Court Pilot Program** based at Liverpool is a four-year initiative to provide diversionary programs to assist young offenders in South Western Sydney who are eligible for Youth Drug Court participation and who have been charged with offences related to their alcohol and other drug use. The program is a cross-agency project with representatives from NSW Health, the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Community Services - **\$700,000**;
- **Metropolitan Regional Office, Werrington** co-ordinates all Department of Juvenile Justice services in the metropolitan area - **\$1.82 million**; and
- **Juvenile Transport Services** based at Werrington and Campbelltown provide secure transport of juveniles under detention - **\$510,000**.

The Department of Education and Training will continue the **Schools as Community Centres Program** in Western Sydney in 2002-03 with expenditure of **\$420,000**.

The **School Student Transport Scheme** provides subsidised travel to and from school for eligible students on Government and private bus, rail and ferry services. The estimate for 2002-03 for the carriage of school children living in Western Sydney is **\$57.5 million**.

Services for older people and people with disabilities

The new Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care brings together the Ageing and Disability Department with the Department of Community Services' Disability Services function. The Home Care Service of NSW also reports to the new Department. The creation of the Department enables better standards of care and support for older people, people with disabilities and their carers, to live successfully in their communities. The Department anticipates that its expenditure in Western Sydney in 2002-03 for the **Home and Community Care Program**, the **Disability Services Program** and **Ageing initiatives** will be more than **\$142 million**. Funding will be allocated in accordance with the regional plans of the Department and will be used to develop and expand a range of services to meet the needs of frail older people, younger people with a disability and their carers. Services will include transport, domestic assistance and home maintenance, respite, allied health and nursing care, social support, early childhood intervention and community access.

Government funding for a wide range of **transport concessions** will be provided to both public and private transport operators to ensure that pensioners, retired senior citizens, veterans and welfare recipients have equal access to services and facilities. State-wide in 2002-03, a total of \$199 million has been allocated to subsidise pensioner and welfare concession travel on CityRail and State Transit services. This funding includes \$177 million towards **Pensioner Excursion Tickets** for unlimited pensioner travel on all CityRail and most State Transit Authority services on the day of purchase. In addition, Western Sydney residents will benefit from the 2002-03 allocation of \$42 million for the provision of subsidised **pensioner and welfare concession travel on Countrylink services**.

Services provided by State-wide private transport operators have been allocated \$35.5 million in 2002-03 towards **subsidised pensioner travel**. The **Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme** provides taxi travel at a half rate subsidy to people who are unable to use public transport because of a qualifying severe and permanent disability. State-wide, \$14 million has been allocated for the scheme in 2002-03.

The Government has allocated \$14.9 million to community transport operators in NSW in 2002-03 through the Home and Community Care Transport Sub-program, the NSW Community Transport Program and the Area Assistance Scheme. Community transport aims to address specific transport needs of frail aged, people with disabilities and their carers, and transport disadvantaged people. **\$3.8 million** has been allocated for **community transport projects** in Western Sydney.

The Department of Local Government will pay **\$12.7 million** to Western Sydney councils in 2002-03 under the **Subsidies for Pensioner Concessions Program** for rate rebates to pensioners.

Aboriginal People

The Government is committed to addressing the infrastructure needs of Aboriginal communities in Western Sydney and is consulting with Aboriginal people to develop solutions to these needs. The Department's **Major Grants Program**, with grants of up to \$45,000, provides financial assistance to Indigenous people and organisations that wish to implement innovative programs that will address the socio-economic disadvantage of members of the Aboriginal community. Funds from the Grants Program are allocated to projects that reflect the social justice priorities of the NSW Government and have the potential to deliver long term benefits.

Aboriginal Health Services in Western Sydney will be allocated **\$2.9 million** in 2002-03. Non-Government organisation grants of approximately **\$1 million** will also be made to Aboriginal Health Services, including **\$169,000** to be provided to Aboriginal Medical Services to support **improving birthing outcomes for Aboriginal women**.

The NSW Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) is undertaking a number of initiatives impacting on Western Sydney in 2002-03 and these include:

- ◆ the **Homelessness Pilot Project** established to work with communities in developing culturally appropriate accommodation models and securing long term accommodation for homeless Aboriginal people. A Steering Committee has been established in the Penrith area and has been successful in securing funding to undertake research into Indigenous homelessness. AHO has appointed a Project Officer to provide support to this and other homeless projects, including support and advice to the Ja-Biah Bail Support Program located in Dean Park, Western Sydney. Young Aboriginal males aged between 10 and 18, instead of being placed in custody, are bailed to the Ja-Biah accommodation service until their case is heard by the courts. Ja-Biah is a 24 hour culturally appropriate Bail Support Program that provides practical support and assistance to Aboriginal youths and their families;
- ◆ encouraging training and sustainable employment opportunities for Aboriginal people - through its programs, AHO has engaged some 20 Aboriginal enterprises/builders in construction and upgrading works;
- ◆ management of a community development project in the Toongabbie Public Housing Estate – AHO is working closely with the Department of Housing to break down a super lot into separate titles and to improve the living conditions of residents; and
- ◆ the Sydney Regional Strategy Statement has identified a strategy to investigate possible and future redevelopment opportunities for Aboriginal Housing stock in the region. This will be the basis for future repairs and maintenance and has the potential to generate employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

The **Aboriginal Communities Regional Strategy** has been designed to help meet critical needs of Aboriginal children and young people, their families and carers across the State. There is a significant gap in health and educational achievement between Aboriginal young people and non-Aboriginal young people. As well, Aboriginal young people continue to have higher rates of involvement in the criminal justice system and Aboriginal families are over represented in child protection notifications. In some Aboriginal communities, children and young people are at very high risk of harm and neglect. The strategy allows Aboriginal community leaders and Government service providers to take action to meet these urgent needs. It utilises a regionally-based population planning approach to have a positive impact on changing the way existing services are provided and improving outcomes for the targeted population. The planning approach promotes:

- ◆ a focus on delivering services to Aboriginal people and achieving better outcomes;

- ◆ better co-ordination of service delivery to Aboriginal communities;
- ◆ a focus on prevention and early intervention; and
- ◆ a focus on Aboriginal culture and heritage.

The strategy will be implemented in all areas across the State where Aboriginal people live and funding will be distributed according to a formula reflecting the level of the Aboriginal population and the costs associated with delivering services. State-wide, The Cabinet Office's Office of Children and Young People will allocate \$1.9 million to the strategy in 2002-03.

\$60,000 will be allocated by the Environment Protection Authority under the Urban Stormwater Education program to the **Western Sydney Aboriginal Education Stormwater Project**, for the employment of an Aboriginal Education Officer for nine months to liaise with Aboriginal communities in the development and delivery of stormwater education.

The **Attorney General's Department** will appoint an Aboriginal Service Specialist at Mt Druitt under the **Indigenous Justice Strategy**. The **Department of Land and Water Conservation** is conducting a **Natural Resource Cadetship Program** for Indigenous students enrolled in an environmental science degree. The program provides on-the-job training and long-term employment. In 2002-03, two cadetships will be funded through the partnership agencies, the Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust and the Sydney Catchment Authority. A cadet will also be placed part-time with the Chipping Norton Lakes Authority under an **Aboriginal Ranger Training Initiative**. More than **\$47,000** will be expended on these training programs.

The Casino Community Benefit Fund

In 2002-03, almost **\$1.9 million** will be allocated from this fund for services and programmes in Western Sydney to **counter gambling-related problems**. Grants to assist with the provision of specialist counselling services for problem gamblers and their families will be made to the Australian Arabic Communities Council, the Auburn Asian Welfare Centre, Centacare Catholic Family Services, Lifeline Western Sydney (Parramatta), NSW Indo-China Chinese Association, the Community Relations Commission of NSW, the Western Sydney Area Health Service, South Western Sydney Area Health Service, Odyssey House-McGrath Foundation Ingleburn, Lifeline Macarthur, Lao Community Advancement NSW Co-op Ltd, Maryfields Day Recovery Centre, Wesley Mission's Serenity House, Vietnamese Community in Australia (NSW Chapter) and Wesley Gambling Counselling Services at Penrith.

Housing

The Department of Housing has allocated around **\$2 million** in 2002-03 to provide **260 short-term leased public housing properties** for people on low incomes in Western Sydney. In addition, around **\$770,000** has been allocated for **200 new community housing short and long-term leased properties**, including ten Crisis Accommodation Program properties. The Department of Housing estimates that 4,100 households will be newly assisted into public housing in 2002-03. Under the Department's Housing Assistance Program, more than 13,100 households in Western Sydney will be assisted with some of the costs of private rental. This will include private rental subsidies to around 300 people with specific needs such as those with disabilities and people with HIV/AIDS. In addition, **\$412,000** will be spent by the **Homelessness Action Team** to assist homeless people in Western Sydney.

The Department of Housing's **Community Renewal Initiatives** include:

- intensive Tenancy Management projects in Bidwill, Toongabbie, Minto and Bonnyrigg, which involve the placement of staff to public housing estates so as to be more responsive to local problems and developing new initiatives for tenants; and
- Housing and Community Assistance Programs in Minto, Macquarie Fields, Mt Druitt, Bidwill and Cranebrook, which encourage the integration of service provision with other government and community service agencies to complement physical improvements to properties.

In 2002-03, PlanningNSW will commit **\$873,000** to continue planning investigations and development co-ordination for the provision of increased stocks of **land for greenfields housing** in Western Sydney. PlanningNSW will commit **\$42,500** under the Local Government Housing Initiatives Program to undertake a **Regional Housing Strategy** for Auburn, Bankstown, Fairfield and Parramatta Councils.

PlanningNSW will spend more than **\$1.2 million** in 2002-03 under the **Urban Improvement Program** on partnership projects with ten Western Sydney councils and the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. These projects include: Revesby Urban Village; Merrylands Commercial Centre Re-vitalisation; Bonnyrigg Town Centre; Narellan Community Vision; People Places in Western Sydney (Blacktown, Katoomba, Auburn and Cabramatta); Blacktown City Underpasses; and Guildford Better Neighbourhoods.

Sport and Recreation

In 2002-03, the Government has allocated **\$550,000** to the Western Sydney and the South Western Sydney Regional Academies of Sport and the NSW Institute of Sport. The South Western Sydney Academy will become an incorporated community-based sporting organisation in order to ensure it meets community needs. The Western Sydney Academy will continue to provide seven high quality sport programs. The **Department of Sport and Recreation** will spend around **\$397,000** on sporting and recreational programs and services in Western Sydney, including initiatives for Aboriginal and Arabic youth. In addition, around **\$850,000** has been allocated for the **development of sporting facilities** in Western Sydney in 2002-03 under the Department's Capital Assistance Program and some **\$70,000** will be allocated to Police and Community Youth Clubs in Western Sydney through the Youth in Sport Program.

Responsibility for the Western Sydney Olympic venues has been transferred from the Olympic Co-ordination Authority to the Department of Sport and Recreation. The Department now oversees the following venues: Blacktown Olympic Centre; Dunc Gray Velodrome; Sydney International Equestrian Centre; and the Sydney International Shooting Centre.

PlanningNSW will lease land for the construction of a **Drag Racing facility at Eastern Creek** and will also expend **\$1.7 million** in 2002-03 to meet the operating costs of the **Penrith Lakes Regatta Centre**.

Public Safety

The **NSW Police Service's** 14 Local Area Commands in Western Sydney will have a combined budget in 2002-03 of around **\$249 million**. This includes recurrent funding for police salaries and capital and minor works expenditure.

The NSW Police Service is to have an increased focus on visible, front-line policing and its restructure will see every officer, from Probationary Constables to the Commissioner, perform rostered street policing. The Police budget for 2002-03 contains an allocation of **\$6.6 million** for an improved Diploma of Police Practice including use of a supplementary **police training** facility in Western Sydney. A license arrangement has been entered into with the University of Western Sydney for the use of its Hawkesbury campus in Richmond. The February 2002 announcement by the Government that two additional classes of up to 400 police recruits will commence training in 2002 at the University will result in some 800 extra police on the streets by May 2003.

Other Police initiatives which will have an impact in Western Sydney include:

- ◆ the **Ethnic Community Liaison Officer Program** which aims to improve relations between police and ethnic communities and initiate crime prevention activities. Liaison Officers have been recruited in the Cabramatta, Fairfield, Liverpool, Bankstown, Flemington, Mt Druitt, Parramatta, Rosehill and Holroyd Local Area Commands. They have developed positive relationships with many local ethnic communities and initiated a range of activities relating to crime prevention, increased crime reporting and improved police-community relations. They have also provided advice and support to local police on cultural diversity issues that impact on operational policing;
- ◆ the **Workplace Training Program** for policing cultural and linguistic diversity; and
- ◆ the **Police and Community Training Program**, a crime reduction initiative which brings together police, youth and community groups in jointly facilitated sessions to identify innovative strategies, enhance stakeholder awareness of policing and provide training opportunities.

During 2002-03, recurrent expenditure by **NSW Fire Brigades** in Western Sydney will be **\$35.3 million**.

The Government is implementing Glenbrook related rail safety improvements, including \$4.6 million towards the delivery of a train visibility monitoring system throughout the rail network.

State Rail will continue security measures, including security guards on CityRail trains and the utilisation of increased security features such as high intensity lighting and closed circuit TV cameras, during 2002-03. All **State Transit buses** are equipped with closed circuit TV cameras to enhance safety for both passengers and staff.

The **Attorney General's Department** anticipates providing around **\$300,000** in 2002-03 to support initiatives identified in the **Crime Prevention Plans** of Western Sydney councils including Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Parramatta, Blacktown, Penrith and Blue Mountains, at an average of \$50,000 per council.

The **Motor Accidents Authority** is a statutory corporation established to administer the NSW Motor Accidents Scheme. This is the Compulsory Third Party personal injury insurance scheme for motor vehicles registered in NSW. An integral part of the scheme is a commitment to supporting injury prevention and effective injury management. As part of this commitment the Authority provides support and funding for both road safety and rehabilitation projects through the Grants Program. In 2002-03, the Authority will provide funding for **road safety and rehabilitation projects** in Western Sydney:

- ◆ **\$43,300** - the New Children's Hospital: efficacy of stimulant medication in paediatric acquired brain injury;
- ◆ **\$25,500** - the University of Western Sydney: increasing the use of research by occupational therapists in NSW;
- ◆ **\$369,700** – University of Sydney Lidcombe Campus: research and related projects by the School of Physiotherapy and the Rehabilitation Research Centre;

- ◆ **\$52,600** – Westmead Hospital: Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program;
- ◆ **\$30,500** – Western Sydney Area Health Service: Western Sydney Lower Extremity Orthopaedic Injury Outcomes Study; and
- ◆ **\$50,000** – NSW Premier’s Department: NSW Youth Week 2003.

Also in 2002-03, the Motor Accidents Authority will allocate over \$250,000, through Kidsafe NSW, on the **Child Pedestrian Project** which aims to reduce the number of accidents involving children aged from five to ten years, through improved parental/care-giver child pedestrian safety. Strategies include a series of community-based initiatives such as project grants, an ethnic language component and a media campaign.

Corrective Services

The **Department of Corrective Services** will allocate approximately **\$168.9 million** in recurrent expenditure in 2002-03 in Western Sydney for the **containment and care of inmates**, for the **Probation and Parole Service** and for **Attendance Centres**.

Supporting Cultural Diversity

In 2002-03, the Community Relations Commission will provide grants from its **Community Development Grants Program** to community organisations in Western Sydney that provide cultural programs or conduct projects that enhance community development. The Government has created the **Macarthur-Liverpool Regional Advisory Council** and the **Nepean-Blacktown Regional Advisory Council** to consider and advise the Commission on multicultural issues. Membership comprises community and State and local government representatives. A Commissioner convenes the meetings and a Regional Co-ordinator, employed by the Commission, provides support to the Councils. The Commission is a partner with NSW Police in the development and implementation of the **Police and Community Training Program**.

The Commission provides **interpreting and translating services** in Western Sydney and participates in the Joint Justice Video Conferencing Pilot which is aimed to increase the accessibility of these services to the people of Western Sydney. Through a NSW Treasury allocation of **\$150,000**, as part of the CityWatch Project for the provision of interpreting services at the Cabramatta Local Area Command, the Government is ensuring the non-English speaking public have easy access to the services of NSW Police. In conjunction with the Cabramatta CityWatch Program, the Community Relations Commission has created link groups that provide the opportunity for direct dialogue between community groups and police to address crime issues in the area. As part of a partnership between the Government and the Arabic speaking community, the Commission has created six youth liaison teams to assist in providing Arabic speaking youth with opportunities to improve their personal development.

In 2002-03, almost \$86 million will be spent State-wide by the **Department of Education and Training** under the **Non-English Speaking Background Program**. \$3 million will be expended on the **New Arrivals Program** for school students from language backgrounds other than English. The Department will employ approximately 530 equivalent full-time English as a Second Language (ESL) teaching positions and some 79,000 students will be supported in post-intensive ESL programs. In addition, the Department will provide nearly \$4 million for the **Multicultural Education Plan** in 2002-03. Major proportions of these programs will be implemented in Western Sydney.

Community Development

In 2002-03, the **Western Sydney and Macarthur Area Assistance Schemes** will continue to be funded by PlanningNSW, to the extent of **\$4.9 million**. Under the scheme, grants are provided to community organisations for social and community development projects. These projects connect communities through partnerships with local councils and community organisations, build community leadership and capacity and promote safe communities.

3.3 PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2002-03, the operating budgets in Western Sydney for the **Environment Protection Authority** will be **\$17.2 million**.

The **Department of Land and Water Conservation** will spend around **\$7 million** in Western Sydney and this will include its commitments to Natural Resource Planning; State of the Environment reporting within the region; and the operation of natural resource access and compliance in areas such as vegetation and water management.

Other agencies which have a role in protecting the Western Sydney environment include NSW Agriculture, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, PlanningNSW, the Sydney Water Corporation, the Sydney Catchment Authority, the Healthy Rivers Commission, Waste Service of NSW, Resource NSW, the Sustainable Energy Development Authority and the Office of Western Sydney.

Graffiti is a significant issue for a wide section of the community in Western Sydney. The NSW Government has implemented a State-wide **Graffiti Solutions Program** aimed at building a broader understanding of graffiti issues and to better co-ordinate responses to these issues at all levels of government and the community. The program is based on four key elements:

- ◆ improved co-ordination between Local and State Government agencies and the community;
- ◆ enforcement and monitoring of legislation;
- ◆ partnership with industry; and
- ◆ partnership with Local Government.

The aim of the programme is to develop and implement multi-faceted programmes and best practice approaches to deal with illegal graffiti. Initiatives involve a range of inter-related activities focussing on enforcement; clean up and the urban environment; an industry campaign; graffiti on public transport; and young people and community art. The main agencies involved in the program are the Attorney General's Department, NSW Police, PlanningNSW and the Departments of Juvenile Justice, Corrective Services, Local Government, Transport, Education and Training and Fair Trading.

As part of the program, the Department of Juvenile Justice, in partnership with local councils, has established supervised "clean up teams" to engage young people on community service orders in graffiti removal. Young people involved in this initiative are working on sites that have been identified by local councils including council properties, private residences, bus shelters, shopping centres, parks, playgrounds and court facilities. This initiative has progressed substantially in Western Sydney with teams operating in Blacktown, the Blue Mountains, Cobham Children's Court, Campbelltown, Penrith and Fairfield.

Beat Graffiti grants from the Attorney General's Department will be provided to councils, Police and Community Youth Clubs and other local community organisations in the region. The Beat Graffiti scheme has been established to steer young people away from graffiti vandalism and to fund creative projects including legal art and other graffiti prevention projects. The grants range from \$2,500 to \$15,000 and are directed to agencies in areas where graffiti is a significant problem.

Western Sydney Environment Strategy

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 is an important step towards improving the quality of the region's natural resources, conserving its biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of the region's environmental resources. The Strategy can be found at website www.westernsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Western Sydney Environment Week is a regional showcase of environmental initiatives and achievements of industry, local businesses, Western Sydney councils, State and Commonwealth Government agencies, schools and community organisations. Western Sydney Environment Week 2002, which commences on 2 June, will comprise over 120 events. The art competition for the **2003 Western Sydney Environment Calendar**, which features art from Western Sydney school children on environmental themes, will be launched during Environment Week.

The **Western Sydney Environment Taskforce** was established by the Minister for Western Sydney in September 2000. Its key role is to drive an integrated approach to environmental issues and lead the implementation of strategic initiatives to deliver improved environmental outcomes in Western Sydney. The Office of Western Sydney provides executive support and facilitates outcomes. The Taskforce has developed a broad program for 2002 through formal Working Groups for industry environmental initiatives, waste management, energy, water issues and salinity. Other potential undertakings to be investigated by the Taskforce are a regional environmental research agenda, an eco-technology park for the Camellia precinct and air quality and biodiversity projects. Initiatives being undertaken in 2002 are:

- ◆ the Industry Sustainability Initiative has been developed to promote the integration of sustainable environmental practices into businesses in the region. It will encourage Western Sydney industry to progress towards more sustainable outcomes that reflect improved environmental performance, social responsibility and economic efficiency;
- ◆ assessing the potential for a dedicated waste resource recovery facility for electronics and IT scrap, to significantly reduce the amount of electronic waste going to land fill;
- ◆ the Western Sydney Sustainable Energy Plan will provide a framework for the implementation of sustainable energy initiatives to promote more efficient energy use and help deliver reliable, affordable and environmentally sound energy sources in the future;
- ◆ two salinity management projects are being implemented through the Salinity Working Group, led by the Department of Land and Water Conservation: completion of salinity hazard mapping for the whole of Western Sydney; and piezometer monitoring of groundwater levels at selected locations in the region; and
- ◆ two water related projects are being developed by the Water Working Group, led by the Australian Water Association: a demonstration project on Water Sensitive Urban Design in Western Sydney; and Western Sydney WaterLink, an Internet-based tool, funded by the Office of Western Sydney, Sydney Water and the Australian Water Association, designed to generate a greater awareness of the extensive water related activities undertaken by government, industry, research bodies, the Upper Parramatta Catchment Management Trust and other stakeholders across the region.

Clean Air and Clean Waterways

In 2002-03, an estimated **\$520,000** will be expended on the **Air Quality Monitoring Program** in Western Sydney by the **Environment Protection Authority (EPA)**. The EPA will allocate a further round of Stormwater Trust grants totalling **\$2.5 million** to seven projects in Western Sydney. The grants will be for **stormwater remediation** and associated projects. Other initiatives by the EPA in Western Sydney in 2002-03 will include:

- ◆ **\$100,000** on measures to **reduce water pollution** in the South Creek catchment under a pilot trading scheme. This funding for on-ground measures will be provided by the Sydney Water Corporation. The EPA will allocate a further **\$200,000** for the development of the trading scheme and practical tools needed for its implementation;
- ◆ in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, the delivery of community education to market gardeners on **reducing diffuse pollution to South Creek**;
- ◆ continuation of the **Market Gardening in a Culturally Diverse Society Project** which focuses on the training and community development needs of non-English speaking background farmers in the Sydney Basin; and
- ◆ continuation of the **Blue Mountains Urban Run-off Control Program**, with an allocation of **\$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.

The Environment Protection Authority has obtained \$2.05 million from the Environmental Trust for a **Clean Air Fund** to undertake detailed planning and implementation of projects to reduce air quality impacts in identified areas and to facilitate the upgrading of wood heaters throughout the State.

The **Department of Land and Water Conservation** will provide **\$840,000** on grants for local government for on-ground natural resource improvement projects such as riverbank restoration, weed control, pest control and vegetation protection and restoration. This will attract further investment from local government, industry and the community, bringing the total investment to near \$2.5 million. A further **\$200,000** will be allocated by the Department for administrative and operational support to the Hawkesbury Nepean Local Government Advisory Group and the Hawkesbury Nepean River Management Forum. The Department will also continue to fund initiatives within Western Sydney implementing the **Government's Water Management Programs**. Over **\$300,000** will be spent on information management within Western Sydney including the completion of a model data management system in partnership with the Environment Protection Authority and the Sydney Catchment Authority. The provision of **investigation and management tools for salinity** in Western Sydney will be funded under the Western Sydney Investigations and Options Project, to the extent of **\$30,000**, in partnership with Salt Action Grant funding.

The **Hawkesbury Nepean Riverbank Management Program** is an ongoing Natural Heritage Trust funded program that commenced in 1996. It is an initiative of the Department of Land and Water Conservation and aims to improve Government and community management of the river corridor east to Wiseman's Ferry. Initiatives under the program in 2002-03 will include:

- ◆ **\$70,000** project management and operations between Wisemans Ferry and Camden;
- ◆ **\$30,000** for on-ground works;

- ◆ **\$80,000** within the Hawkesbury Nepean River Soil Conservation Project as another part of the Riverbank Management Program; and
- ◆ **\$80,000** for stream rehabilitation which targets the South Creek area.

Around **\$68,000** will be allocated in 2002-03 by the Department of Land and Water Conservation on **blue-green and marine algae management** in marine and estuarine areas as well as freshwater areas.

The **Sustainable Energy Development Authority** was 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 percent by investing in the latest energy efficient equipment, resulting in cost-effective energy savings. Similarly, the residential energy efficient program has the potential to reduce household energy consumption by up to 40 percent. 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 percent by 2005. Anticipated expenditure in 2002-03 by the Authority in Western Sydney is **\$600,000**, principally through the **Energy Smart Business** and **Residential Energy Programs**.

The **Sydney Catchment Authority** will allocate around \$21 million in 2002-03 for maintaining and operating infrastructure to provide bulk water to Sydney Water and other customers and for monitoring water quality and quantity. In addition the Authority will allocate the following:

- ◆ **\$125,000** for its Environmental Assessment of Sites and Infrastructure Projects that will provide an inventory of locations and activities that may impact on water quality;
- ◆ **\$188,000** for its **Streamwatch Program** and educational activities for schools within the catchment;
- ◆ **\$100,000** to fund its **Mobile Education Unit** activities to school children within the catchment;
- ◆ **\$100,000** in grants to community groups for **catchment protection and improvement projects**;
- ◆ around **\$20,000** for the \$90,000 cost of **restoring the stormwater damaged riparian zone** in Macraes Paddock in Upper Kedumba River Catchment at Katoomba; and
- ◆ **\$65,000** for the development of a **gross pollutant trap in Katoomba**.

The **Waterways Authority** will allocate **\$700,000** in 2002-03 on technical and project management costs associated with remediation work to **remove contaminated sediments at the eastern side of Homebush Bay**. This amount comprises completion of the Environmental Impact Statement, development consent, Remediation Action Plan, associated community consultation and preliminary site establishment. The Government's contribution to this project is estimated at \$21 million.

Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Forests

In 2002-03 the **National Parks and Wildlife Service** will commit around **\$5 million** to **Regional Parks, National Parks and Nature Reserves** in the region. These areas are for the use and enjoyment by the Western Sydney community and include:

- ◆ **Western Sydney Regional Park, Horsley Park, \$400,000** to increase the area available for use by the public and to improve security;

- ◆ **Rouse Hill, Regional Park, \$300,000** for the maintenance of visitor facilities and managing heritage values;
- ◆ **Leacock Regional Park, Casula \$70,000** for maintenance contracts and bush regeneration;
- ◆ **William Howe Regional Park, Narellan Vale, \$82,000** for security and maintenance contracts and fire management;
- ◆ **Lower Prospect Canal, \$2 million** for construction of cycleway;
- ◆ **Yellomundee Regional Park, \$500,000** for ongoing improvements and maintenance works;
- ◆ **Blue Mountains National Park, Lower Mountains, \$400,000** for ongoing improvements and maintenance of the additions to the Blue Mountains National Park;
- ◆ **Blue Mountains National Parks and Nature Reserves, \$1.5 million** for ongoing maintenance and improvements; and
- ◆ **Cumberland Plain National Parks and Nature Reserves, \$500,000** for the conservation, management and presentation of places such as Bents Basin State Recreation Area, Newington Nature Reserve, Pitt Town Lagoon Nature Reserve, Mulgoa Nature Reserve, Cattai National Park, Wisemans Ferry Historic Site, Scheyville National Park, Windsor Downs Nature Reserve, Agnes Banks Nature Reserve and Castlereagh Nature Reserve. An additional 70 hectares will be added to the **Mulgoa Nature Reserve** as added protection for one of the largest remaining Cumberland Plain Woodland endangered communities. **\$100,000** will be allocated for the ongoing program of **biodiversity surveys and threatened species recovery planning and protection** in Western Sydney. Specifically the Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Community Recovery Plan will be progressed.

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is now well established and the National Parks and Wildlife Service is planning the construction of a World Heritage Visitors Centre at Kurrajong Heights, at a cost of around \$1.75 million. Exhibition of a Strategic Plan for the area is proposed during 2002-03.

The **Sydney Olympic Park Authority** is preparing a Plan of Management for the Millennium Parklands and Bicentennial Park in 2002-03, in consultation with the community. The Plan will help determine a program of works, estimated to cost \$2 million, which will focus on improving regional connectivity, visitor programme activity and visitor access within the Parklands. Additional works, such as major plantings and restoration of the built environment, will enhance both the physical appearance of the site and the experience of visitors from Western Sydney and beyond.

The Commonwealth Government intends to add a further 250 hectares to the proposed regional park on the former **ADI site at St Marys**. In view of this change in the proportions of land identified for conservation and development, contributions towards the establishment and enhancement of the regional park will be re-negotiated by PlanningNSW.

The **Penrith Lakes Scheme** will create the largest urban parkland and lake system in Sydney and accommodate approximately 14,000 residents in an integrated urban development. PlanningNSW is preparing a plan amendment to enable the staged development of parklands, lakes and the urban land. The draft Penrith Lakes Regional Environment Plan will be exhibited in December 2002 and is due to be finalised early in 2003.

It is anticipated that a grant of **\$100,000** will be provided in 2002-03 towards a joint management program to address issues impacting on 2,000 hectares of regional open space land within the Campbelltown City Council area, owned by PlanningNSW, and adjacent to the western side of the Georges River.

In 2002-03, **State Forests of NSW** will spend around **\$628,000** on operations and services provided to the community at the **Cumberland State Forest** at West Pennant Hills, a recreation and forestry educational facility. Also located at West Pennant Hills is State Forests' **Research and Development Division** which will have a budget of **\$7.9 million**. It 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 Division's library is available to the community. The **Cumberland State Forest Retail Nursery and Management Unit**, also at West Pennant Hills, will spend **\$850,000**.

The **Sydney Catchment Authority** has allocated **\$115,000** in 2002-03 for the operation of its recreational and conference facilities at the Warragamba, Cataract and Avon Dam sites.

In 2002-03, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust will allocate **\$5.6 million** in recurrent and capital funding to the **Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Botanical Gardens**.

The **Parramatta Park Trust** will be allocated **\$1.1 million** in 2002-03 for recurrent expenditure.

Heritage

The historic 5.11 hectare **Linnwood estate at Guildford** is to be made accessible to the community, following the Government's January 2002 announcement that a co-ordinated long-term plan for its future use would be developed by the NSW Heritage Office with the involvement of Holroyd Council, the Friends of Linnwood Hall and the local community. Title of Linnwood Hall, which is currently owned by the Department of Community Services, is to be transferred to the Heritage Office in 2002-03.

PlanningNSW will provide funding in 2002-03 from the Sydney Region Development Fund for various projects in Western Sydney that have historical significance, including:

- ◆ **\$250,000**, in addition to the existing \$500,000 grant, to complete the conservation of '**Glenalvon**' in Campbelltown;
- ◆ **\$650,000** to Baulkham Hills Shire Council for the conservation of the **Bella Vista** farm and landscape; and
- ◆ approximately **\$750,000** to the **heritage asset portfolio in Western Sydney**, documenting, assessing and undertaking works on places of local, regional and State significance.

Waste Management

The NSW Government seeks to encourage the most efficient use of resources and to reduce environmental harm in accordance with the principles of ecological sustainable development. With this in mind, the second phase of the Government's waste reforms, the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001, will allow for further improvements to sustainable solutions associated with waste. These are a continuous decline in waste generation, the optimum recovery of resources from waste and the management, in the most environmentally responsible manner, of the waste left after recovering those resources. The new reforms include:

- ◆ a strong focus on avoiding waste;

- ◆ further cleaner production initiatives;
- ◆ improved data on resource recovery;
- ◆ better ways to assist waste technology;
- ◆ more integrated systems for important materials such as office paper, cardboard, organics and wood;
- ◆ improved recycling in public areas; and
- ◆ a waste levy that provides a strong economic incentive to reduce waste disposal.

Through its agreement to direct 55 percent of waste levies to the Waste Fund, State-wide, the Government is providing more than \$40 million per year for waste programs.

During 2002-03, **Waste Service NSW** anticipates that it will expend **\$65 million** in Western Sydney, involving \$57 million in continued operating costs and capital expenditure of \$8 million at landfill sites and waste transfer stations. Waste Service NSW is investigating ways to improve the environmental outcomes for Western Sydney by assessing a range of alternate waste processing technologies, with the dual goals of efficiently maximising recycling and minimising the amount of waste going to landfill.

PlanningNSW will provide land, via a lease, for an extension to the **Eastern Creek Waste Management Centre** from July 2002.

Established in October 2001, **Resource NSW** has taken over responsibility for waste management and resource recovery from nine Regional Waste Boards, as well as for certain program areas from the Environment Protection Authority. Planned initiatives in Western Sydney in 2002-03 include:

- ◆ **\$60,000** will be spent on the development of **wood waste facilities** at Kemp's Creek, Schofields and Camden;
- ◆ targeting increased **recovery of paper and cardboard wastes** from office buildings in the Parramatta and Liverpool central business districts;
- ◆ a **public place recycling program** will be extended to major rail stations and transport interchanges across the Sydney metro network including the main Western, Bankstown and East Hills lines, supported by increased public place recycling in adjacent council areas. State-wide funding will exceed \$3 million over 3 years;
- ◆ subject to industry support, the establishment of a **drive through recycling centre at Werrington**;
- ◆ **household hazardous waste collections** during 2002-2004, with State-wide funding of \$1.5 million per annum over three years;
- ◆ a three year program targeting **illegal dumping**, drawing from the experience of trials in Western Sydney and providing \$45,000 per annum for participating local councils. A support service for enforcement officers will provide advice to aid in successful prosecutions. In addition, councils will have access to \$1 million State-wide to identify and clean up bushland dump sites. A further \$600,000 will be available to improve sites and deter dumping; and
- ◆ an updated waste regulatory system that supports resource recovery and ensures appropriate environmental regulation of waste generation, transport, treatment and disposal.

Mine Rehabilitation

A NSW Government Environmental Trust grant of \$631,320 was provided in 2000-01, to be used over three years, on **environmental and safety improvements at the Yerranderie mine site**. Rehabilitation works are continuing at this derelict silver mining field and they include the treatment of soil and water, placing gates over shafts and closing shafts that pose a safety risk. A trial of remedial technologies to provide permanent environmental solutions to the problem of acid mine drainage will also be part of this project.

3.4 BETTER GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Additional agencies delivering government services within the region include, the Premier's Department, the Department of Fair Trading, the Attorney General's Department, the Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades, the State Emergency Service, the Department of Industrial Relations, CityRail, State Transit, and the WorkCover Authority.

Premier's Department

The Premier's Department has several major **'place-managed' projects** and **regional co-ordination initiatives** in Western Sydney. The Department is also implementing the **Drugs and Community Action Strategy** which is part of the *NSW Government Plan of Action* developed in response to the NSW Drug Summit. The allocation for 2002-03 for these regional initiatives will be **\$3.95 million**.

The **Regional Co-ordination Program** aims to improve access to government services by co-ordinating delivery so as to meet the needs of individuals and communities and tackle pressing social, economic and environmental issues, making the best use of available resources. A key strategy of the program is to develop and maintain effective, cooperative relationships with regional and corporate agency personnel, local community organisations, local councils, and Commonwealth government agencies, so as to facilitate the co-ordination of government services. The program has offices in Parramatta and Bankstown. In 2002-03, projects under the program will include:

- ◆ the Parramatta Government Property Strategy and the Parramatta Regional Environmental Plan;
- ◆ Penrith Lakes Scheme Development;
- ◆ Strengthening Local Communities project development in Western Sydney;
- ◆ continued financial support of the Natural Resource Cadetship Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- ◆ improvement of human service co-ordination at regional and local government levels in South West Sydney;
- ◆ Macarthur Youth Commitment to improve educational and economic outcomes for youth in the local government areas of Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly;
- ◆ whole-of-government approaches to the planning of new land release areas and the management of natural resource issues in South West Sydney; and

In April 1997, the Premier announced a plan to tackle illicit drug use and its impact on the Cabramatta community. The **Cabramatta Project** was established as a partnership between the Premier's Department and Fairfield City Council, and a Reference Group of senior managers from State government agencies was formed to oversee implementation. Strategic issues for Stage 2 are: consolidate and improve infrastructure/approaches to drug treatment and law and order; tourism development; urban space improvements; increased employment opportunities and labour force capabilities; address youth needs and issues; promote integrated service planning and co-ordination between service providers; and work with residents to build supportive networks.

The Canterbury-Bankstown Place Project Action Plan brings a whole-of-government approach to the significant issues that affect the community, especially in relation to young people. The 2001 Consultative Forum has identified four priority areas for action: safety and well being; youth support services and facilities; positive images/community harmony; and employment, training and education. **\$1.395 million** has been allocated in 2002-03 for education and parent support initiatives, sport, recreation and leadership programs, and continuation of the Youth Liaison Teams and community liaison, co-ordination and evaluation.

The Premier's Department has contributed to a multi-agency **project to support the community of Airds**. In 2002-03, activities will focus on increasing outreach services to Airds, building better links between agencies, creating a dynamic and positive community focus and establishing pre-job skills programs in the area.

In December 2001 a multi-agency **Taskforce on Miller**, chaired by the Premier's Department, was established by the Minister for Police with the support of the Premier. The Taskforce drew on the work of government agencies, Liverpool City Council and community organisations to propose a range of initiatives. \$2.4 million has been committed over 3 years for initiatives which include: engaging long term unemployed in work and training; child protection and family strengthening; working appropriately with 8-12 year olds; housing client case management and development; and effective policing and crime prevention.

Fair Trading and Consumer Protection

In 2002-03 the **Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal** will be funded to the extent of **\$3 million** in Western Sydney. The Tribunal has established a registry in Liverpool in addition to hearing venues in Campbelltown, Blacktown and Parramatta and the existing registry in Penrith. The Tribunal has recruited regionally for members and registry staff, resulting in approximately 25 registry positions and 15 member positions based in Western Sydney.

In 2002-03, the Department of Fair Trading will allocate approximately **\$700,000** to **Tenants Advice and Advocacy Services** in Western Sydney. The operating budget for the **Fair Trading Centres** located at Penrith, Liverpool, Blacktown and Parramatta will be almost **\$4.6 million**. These centres will continue to provide information and assistance on the full range of services offered by the Department, including consumer information and complaint handling relating to fair trading, home building, tenancy, and motor vehicles. The centres also provide access to business names registration, building licenses, lodgement of Tribunal applications and the Register of Encumbered Vehicles services.

The Department will also provide grants through the **Property Services Grants Program** for projects which enhance the relationship between the property services industry and their customers and which aim to raise the professional standards of the industry. It is expected that an amount of approximately \$500,000 will be allocated State-wide to the program. In excess of \$350,000 will be allocated State-wide in 2002-03 to the **Home Building Grants Program**, which provides funding for education and training initiatives or research projects that enhance relationships between home builders and consumers, boosts the professionalism of the industry and provides support to apprentices. It is expected that significant proportions of these allocations will be directed to applications from Western Sydney.

Financial counselling services will continue to be funded through the Department's **Credit Counselling Program** and the **Financial Counselling Trust Fund**. In 2002-03, Western Sydney services will receive **\$321,000**.

Emergency Services

During 2002-03, the **Department of Land and Water Conservation** will allocate **\$300,000** to develop Floodplain Management Plans with local government bodies in Western Sydney, under the **Hawkesbury Nepean Floodplain Management Strategy**.

In 2002-03, the **State Emergency Service** will allocate **\$125,000** to emergency services in Bankstown, Fairfield and Auburn for the **purchase of emergency response vehicles** and for **building improvements**. In addition, approximately **\$150,000** will be expended on the provision of personal protective clothing and safety equipment for Western Sydney volunteers.

The **NSW Rural Fire Service**, in conjunction with Local Councils, is responsible for the management of the State's Rural Fire Brigades. In 2002-03, the Rural Firefighting Fund will have a budget of \$120.7 million of which Western Sydney will receive more than **\$13 million**. Allocations from the Rural Fire Fighting Fund will be made to the local government areas of Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Penrith, Liverpool and Wollondilly.

Industrial Relations and WorkCover

In 2002-03, the Department of Industrial Relations' **Western Sydney Contact Centre at Parramatta** and **South Western Sydney Contact Centre at Bankstown**, will continue to provide assistance to thousands of individual employers and employees with workplace difficulties and inquiries. Both centres will also undertake targeted activities in key industries and occupations in Western Sydney through award education and compliance campaigns.

The Department will be focusing its activities on providing assistance to both outworkers and businesses in Western Sydney during 2002-03. Many of these outworkers live and work in the Fairfield, Bankstown and Liverpool local government areas. In March 2001, the Premier announced the \$4 million, three year campaign, ***Behind the Label – the Government's Clothing Outworker Strategy***. The aims of the Strategy are to:

- ◆ foster an Australian clothing industry that competes successfully on the basis of design, technological innovation and productivity, while providing healthy, safe and fairly paid employment for all its workers; and
- ◆ remedy the disadvantage of some groups of workers in the home-based clothing sector and in factories.

Four Departmental bilingual inspector/advisers are working within the Vietnamese, Chinese and other communities, providing practical assistance and information to employers and employees in the clothing industry to help them comply with their industrial obligations and enforce any breaches of the law. The Department is also developing and delivering information and educational resources to employers and employees in the industry to increase their knowledge and awareness of their rights and responsibilities.

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Workplace Services Unit** of the Department will continue to assist ATSI employers and employees in Western Sydney in 2002-03 by raising their awareness of fair workplace practices, industrial rights and obligations and employment conditions. The Department's **Workplace Advice Unit** will assist Western Sydney employers and employees to improve work relations, develop best practice initiatives in workplace policies and procedures and promote harmony and productivity in the workplace. The Unit provides telephone advice and publications and delivers and co-ordinates seminars, workshops and forums on all aspects of employment. The Department estimates that it will expend **\$2.5 million** in recurrent funding to support its services in Western Sydney.

In 2002-03, **WorkCover Authority** anticipates that **operational expenditure** in Western Sydney will be **\$11.47 million**, primarily directed to the prevention of workplace injuries and diseases. The Authority has offices at Parramatta, Liverpool, Blacktown and Londonderry.

Justice and Legal Aid

Community Justice Centres (CJCs) operate a free community mediation and conflict management service throughout Western Sydney. Services are provided in every local government area by panels of local mediators who respond in an "on demand" basis, utilising government offices, courts and community centres to ensure local venues are available to access services close to where people live or work. CJCs contribute to the safety and harmony of the communities of Western Sydney by improving individual, group and community responses to the settlement of conflict, particularly in relation to some matters before the local courts (e.g. Apprehended Violence Orders), the Children's Courts and matters referred by other government agencies such as Community Services, Housing and Police. There is no waiting list for services and mediations are held during business hours, after hours and on weekends, 52 weeks of the year. Part of the Attorney-General's Department, the CJCs have a regionalised administrative structure with offices in Penrith and Bankstown, whilst the office based in Wollongong administers the services provided to the Liverpool/Campbelltown/Camden districts. 18 staff are employed to ensure the communities of Western Sydney have access to the CJCs' services. It is estimated that expenditure on CJCs in Western Sydney in 2002-03 will be approximately **\$1 million**.

The Legal Aid Commission assists socially and economically disadvantaged people with legal problems in the criminal, family and civil jurisdictions. In 2002-03, it will allocate **\$13.4 million** for **legal aid services** in Western Sydney through its network of legal aid offices situated at Bankstown, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith. In addition, the Commission anticipates expenditure of approximately **\$5.8 million** in payments to private legal practitioners and on legal disbursements in legally aided matters in the region.

In 2002-03, the Legal Aid Commission will continue funding for **Community Legal Centres** located at Campbelltown, Harris Park, the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury/Nepean and South West Sydney, to the extent of **\$680,000**. The Centres provide accessible community-based legal services in both generalist and specialised legal areas as well as court assistance and support to women who are victims of domestic violence. In addition, they undertake community legal education, take part in law reform activities to redress social and legal injustices and provide information, advice and casework for the socially and economically disadvantaged.

Survey Services

Land and Property Information NSW, part of the Department of Information Technology and Management, will allocate a further **\$350,000** in 2002-03 for the completion of **new edition topographic maps, digital topographic and survey information** for Western Sydney. In addition, **\$480,000** will be allocated to the **Digital Cadastral Database** maintenance involving digital subdivision and boundary mapping in Western Sydney. In addition, as a consequence of the January 2002 bushfire crisis, **\$100,000** will be allocated in 2002-03 for the **aerial photography** of the "burnt" areas within Western Sydney.

Transport

The State Rail Authority provides over 10,900 passenger train services in Western Sydney each week, servicing over 80 million passenger journeys. In 2002-03, the Authority will spend approximately **\$61 million** on the **operation and maintenance of railway stations** in Western Sydney. \$6.3 million will be expended in 2002-03 on improved passenger information systems on CityRail stations, including Western Sydney.

The State Transit Authority operates nine bus routes in Parramatta. This equates to over 360 services per weekday and 260 services on the weekend. Over 80,000 passengers are estimated to use these services each week. The Authority also operates a service between Bankstown and Canterbury which carries over 10,000 passengers each week. Early in 2003, State Transit will commence operating on the Liverpool to Parramatta Transitway through a wholly-owned subsidiary corporation, using low-floor, wheelchair accessible, air-conditioned buses powered by compressed natural gas.

State Transit also provides 18 Rivercat ferry services to and from Parramatta wharf each day. Over 27,700 passengers travel on these ferries each week.

Transport NSW is developing a **Customer Charter**, in consultation with State Rail and State Transit. The Charter will cover standards such as on time running, safety, accessibility and cleanliness. It will also provide customers with information on how to communicate suggestions, complaints and compliments to public transport service providers. The budget for the Charter in 2002-03 is \$90,000. From 2003, it is anticipated that private bus operators will be brought under the Charter.