

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUDGET INVESTS IN WESTERN NSW

Residents and businesses in Western NSW will benefit from the NSW Government's continued investment in major and local infrastructure, sharing the benefits of the State's strong 2017-18 Budget position and continued economic strength.

Parliamentary Secretary for Western NSW Rick Colless MLC said the NSW Government understands the need for investment in our regional areas to help communities, families and businesses to thrive.

"The NSW economy is the envy of the nation and of the world. We don't have a strong budget position for the sake of it though, it's so we can invest where we need it most. And this budget does exactly that, with more investment in schools, roads and hospitals for Western NSW."

Key highlights from the 2017-18 Budget include:

- **\$9.5 million** to complete construction of the **\$40 million** realignment of the Mitchell Highway at Guanna Hill
- **\$7 million** towards a new Cobb Highway bridge over the Murray River between Echuca and Moama (NSW contribution)
- **\$25 million** to advance planning and industry engagement for the new regional XPT fleet to improve NSW TrainLink Regional train services
- Bathurst Correctional Centre Modular expansion – **\$59.8 million** in 2017-18 of a **\$110.7 million** project to deliver an additional 250 beds at the existing Bathurst Correctional Centre.
- Macquarie Rapid Build Prison (at Wellington) – **\$25.1 million** in 2017-18 of a **\$188.1 million** project to deliver an additional 400 beds at the existing Wellington Correctional Centre site.
- **\$8 million** in 2017-18 for the Mudgee Hospital Redevelopment to provide enhanced emergency, acute and ambulatory care services to patients in a modern, integrated facility, which will replace the existing ageing infrastructure at an estimated total cost of **\$70 million**.
- **\$37.8 million** in 2017-18 to continue the third and fourth stages of the redevelopment of Dubbo Hospital at an estimated total cost of **\$150 million**.
- **\$29.5 million** in 2017-18 to continue the Armidale Hospital Redevelopment at an estimated total cost of **\$60 million**.
- **\$9.6 million** in 2017-18 to continue the reconfiguration of the Broken Hill Hospital and Dental Facility at an estimated total cost of **\$30 million**.
- **\$2.8 million** in 2017-18 to continue the Lightning Ridge HealthOne at an estimated total cost of **\$4.9 million**.
- **\$655,000** in 2017-18 for *Business Connect* services in the Central West (Barwon-Orana, Bathurst, Dubbo & Orange)

- **\$24.5 million** over two years for the Nimmie-Caira land and water project
- **Nyngan/Cobar water security:** New water storages, part of the Nyngan Cobar Water Supply Scheme, which will assist the water security of the two towns and nearby mines.

Quotes attributable to Member for Dubbo Troy Grant: “This Budget continues to deliver the third and fourth stages of the redevelopment of Dubbo Hospital, as well as funding for the Mudgee Hospital Redevelopment, so our local community has access to world class healthcare facilities. I’m also pleased to announce two new Service NSW Centres in both Wellington and Forbes.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Bathurst Paul Toole: “This is a Government that invests in our regions. As a part of this Budget I’m thrilled to see a commitment of \$10m towards the Bathurst VeloCity Park Precinct, a real game changer for our local community.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries: “I am proud that this budget has secured the \$500m flagship Murray River to Broken Hill pipeline project. We are also making it easier for communities to interact with the Government by delivering Service NSW Centres in Nyngan, Walgett and Lightning Ridge.”

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