

Tuesday 22 June 2021

BUDGET DELIVERS FOR WESTERN NSW

Western NSW will benefit from significant investments across a range of service in the 2021/22 NSW Budget.

Key highlights from the Budget for Central West and Orana include:

EDUCATION

- \$18.7 million in 2021-22 for ongoing major upgrades and refurbishments to Bletchington Public School.
- \$13.7 million in 2021-22 to continue works at Young High School including a new joint-use library and community facility.
- \$10.2 million in 2021-22 for Millthorpe Public School, continuing the delivery of a new learning hub, library and major refurbishments.

HEALTH

- \$26.7 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$306.3 million project) for the Dubbo Health Service Redevelopment (stages 1 to 4, car park and the Western Cancer Centre).
- \$2.3 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$70.2 million project) for the Cowra Hospital Redevelopment.
- \$0.5 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$6 million project) for the establishment of the Canowindra HealthOne.

PLANNING

- Supporting the establishment of the Renewable Energy Zone in Central West and Orana as part of the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.
- \$10.5 million in 2021-22 (\$48.1 million over three years) for a new office hub in Dubbo to consolidate existing tenancies and provide a modern, efficient office space to attract and retain regional government workers.
- \$8 million in 2021-22 (as part of an existing \$8.8 million project) for a world-class Platypus Visitor and Education Facility at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

REGIONAL NSW

- \$78.1 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$185.4 million capital funding package) towards delivery of the 4,800 hectare Parkes Special Activation Precinct.
- \$14 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$29 million funding package) for grants administered by the Department of Regional NSW to boost local economies including:
 - \$1 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$3.8 million State funding commitment) for the Mudgee Cultural Precinct.
 - \$0.9 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$1.8 million State funding commitment) for the CentrePoint Sport and Leisure Centre in Blayney.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- \$35.7 million in 2021-22 for the Critical Communications Enhancement Program, creating a single, interoperable Public Safety Network for all Emergency Service Organisations.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

- \$27.9 million over four years for the Dubbo Court expansion, to help impacted offenders by undertaking a 12-month rehabilitation program. This will help rural communities with the tools and resilience they need to combat illicit drugs.

TRANSPORT

- \$107 million in 2021-22 to continue planning for the duplication of the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow (State and Federal funded);
- \$60 million in 2021-22 to commence construction of the Parkes Bypass, as part of upgrades to the Newell Highway to improve connectivity, road transport efficiency and safety (State and Federal funded);
- \$36.4 million in 2021-22 to continue delivery of 40 new overtaking lanes on the Newell Highway (State and Federal Funded);
- \$25 million in 2021-22 for projects including new passing loops to improve the capacity and efficiency of the Main Western Rail Line;
- \$24.7 million in 2021-22 to continue safety and traffic efficiency improvements along the Great Western Highway and Bells Line of Road corridors, including overtaking lanes and widening existing lanes;
- \$20 million in 2021-22 to continue detailed design of the new Dubbo Bridge on the Newell Highway over the Macquarie River, Dubbo (State and Federal funded);
- \$4.3 million in 2021-22 to continue planning for a Fast Rail route to the Central West. The NSW Government is working closely with the National Faster Rail Agency to develop a business case for fast rail on the Sydney to Bathurst, Orange and Parkes corridor (State and Federal funded).

RESTART FUNDING

- \$84 million Restart funding commitments in 2021-22 (as part of a \$227 million Restart package) allocated directly to Central West and Orana local councils and organisations for infrastructure building, renewal and upgrades including:
 - \$5 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$8.0 million Restart package) for Nyngan Cobar Water Security.
 - \$4 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$10 million Restart package) for project Destination Dubbo: International Ready.

Key highlights from the Budget for Far West include:

HEALTH

- Commence construction of the Buronga HealthOne facility, as part of the \$100 million HealthOne Strategy
- \$0.5 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$30.0 million project) for the commencement of the Wentworth Health Service redevelopment
- \$250,000 in 2021-22 for the refurbishment of the Dareton Health Facility.

PLANNING

- \$3.4 million in 2021-22 (\$5.7 million over four years) to deliver new and upgraded quality social and affordable housing for Aboriginal communities in Walgett, Wilcannia and Broken Hill;
- \$1 million for the detailed business case for the Nyngan to Cobar Pipeline project (as part of a Commonwealth agreement.)

REGIONAL NSW

- \$4.5 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$12.8 million funding package) for grants administered by the Department of Regional NSW to boost local economies including:
 - \$1.6 million in 2021-22 (as part of \$4.5 million State funding) for the Cobar Ward Oval and Community Hub project;
 - \$1.5 million in 2021-22 (as part of \$3.0 million State funding) for the Cobar Water Reticulation Upgrade project;
 - \$0.5 million in 2021-22 (as part of \$0.9 million State funding) for the relocation project of the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- \$7.1 million in 2021-22 for the Critical Communications Enhancement Program, creating a single, interoperable Public Safety Network for all emergency service organisations.

TRANSPORT

- \$27.4 million in 2021-22 to continue sealing the Cobb Highway and the Silver City Highway.
- \$4.5 million in 2021-22 for sealing Pooncarie Road in far west NSW, delivering safer, faster and more reliable journeys and boosting tourism and freight productivity (State and Federal funded).
- \$0.3 million in 2021-22 (as part of \$0.6 million State funding commitment) for the West Wyalong Aerodrome Upgrade.

RESTART FUNDING

- \$54 million Restart funding commitments in 2021-22 (as part of a \$143 million Restart package) allocated directly to Far West local councils and organisations for infrastructure building, renewal and upgrades including:
 - \$16 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$29 million Restart package) for Goodooga Road upgrade.
 - \$6 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$7 million Restart package) for reconstruction and sealing of Come by Chance Road between Walgett and Pilliga.
 - \$3.3 million in 2021-22 (as part of a \$8.4 million Restart package) for Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade.

Quotes attributable to Deputy Premier John Barilaro:

“Off the back of devastating drought, bushfires and floods, there has never been a more crucial time to support regional NSW with funding for transport, education, health and tourism. This budget has a strong focus on job creating infrastructure projects to ensure local economies remain strong and regional NSW continues to be a fantastic place to live and work. The NSW Government is once again delivering for our regions.”

Quotes attributable to Minister for Western NSW Adam Marshall:

“It is essential our communities in the far west have access to the same services as others in the State, whether that’s roads, water security or housing. This Budget continues the NSW Government’s commitment to making that happen.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Dubbo Dugald Saunders:

“This is a Budget that truly delivers for the people of the Dubbo electorate. “Never before have we seen such continued investment in the bush and our communities will benefit from crucial funding in health, education and transport services that help us deliver a safer, stronger regional NSW.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Bathurst Paul Toole:

“This Budget shows how serious we are about transforming the Great Western Highway with \$2 billion over the next four years to deliver safer, more reliable journeys through the Blue Mountains and stronger connections to the Central West.”

Quotes attributable to Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke

“The 2021-22 NSW Budget sees continued delivery in the regions thanks to the NSW Nationals in Government. This includes crucial investment to improve our road and rail networks, to support jobs growth and economic stimulus, and to strengthen our health and education infrastructure. This year’s Budget is about ensuring regional communities are given every opportunity possible to thrive.”