

NEW SOUTH WALES

**WESTERN SYDNEY
BUDGET STATEMENT**

1998-99

FOREWORD

This is the first Budget Statement ever produced by a New South Wales Government which focuses solely on Western Sydney.

It details funding the State Government is delivering to Western Sydney in 1998-99 which will:

- secure jobs and investment;
- support families and communities;
- deliver better Government services;
- protect the environment.

Western Sydney is important to New South Wales.

It is home for more than 1.5 million people or 43 per cent of Sydney's population. The region is one of Australia's economic powerhouses, producing goods and services worth more than \$35 billion per annum or 24 per cent of the State Domestic Product. Western Sydney has a predominantly younger and multi-cultural workforce. It has some of the State's largest cities, next to natural jewels such as the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury-Nepean river. It also has pockets of high unemployment, air quality levels on some days that are not acceptable to this Government, and backlogs in Government services resulting from decades of rapid urban development.

The establishment of specific Ministerial responsibility for Western Sydney in December 1997, testifies to the importance of the region to this Government. The Minister will be supported by the Office of Western Sydney, to be located on the Westmead campus of the University of Western Sydney. The Office will provide the Government with high level, strategic advice on Western Sydney issues. A Western Sydney Regional Coordinator, employed by the Premier's Department and based in the Office of Western Sydney, will facilitate the development of major, complex investments and projects in Western Sydney.

The 1998-99 Western Sydney Budget Statement shows the Government is committed to addressing the issues facing the people of Western Sydney today. It also shows that the Government is providing the economic and social infrastructure and services needed so that Western Sydney people can shape the 21st century and take advantage of the region's social, economic, cultural and environmental opportunities.

In recognition of the importance of the region to New South Wales, the State Government will spend close to \$800 million in 1998-99 in Western Sydney on capital works alone, on major services such as health, education, transport, roads, housing and community facilities. In addition, Western Sydney will substantially benefit from spending on Olympics and Paralympics projects.

Highlights of major Government expenditure (capital and recurrent) in this Statement include:

- commencement of the \$100 million Liverpool to Parramatta bus-only Transitway;
- more than \$55 million security upgrade to every CityRail station, (more than 60 in Western Sydney), and from 1 July 1998 security guards posted on every CityRail train from 7pm;
- \$140 million for major road and bridge projects;
- \$110 million in new or upgraded hospitals and health services in Western Sydney;
- more than \$60 million for education and training facilities including new schools at Currans Hill, Carnes Hill and Nirimba;
- \$5.4 million for new and upgraded Courts and Police Stations in Western Sydney;
- \$5 million to four new Regional Parks and other improvements to Western Sydney's National Parks and Nature Reserves;
- nearly \$1.4 million to implement the Government's Air Quality Management Plan (which will significantly benefit Western Sydney residents);
- \$5 million to continue the Blue Mountains Urban Run-off Control Program;
- more than \$6 million to community organisations in Western Sydney which deliver community development services, arts activities, community-based women's health services, financial counselling services and ethnic-support services;
- more than \$16.4 million for emergency services and fire brigades.

This Budget Statement has an additional significance. For the first time, it gives Government agencies and the community an overview of where funds are being spent in Western Sydney. The Statement is an important planning tool for assessing future funding and service delivery priorities in Western Sydney.

We commend the inaugural Western Sydney Budget Statement to you.

Bob Carr
Premier
Minister for the Arts, and
Minister for Ethnic Affairs

Kim Yeadon
Minister for Information Technology
Minister for Forestry, Minister for Ports,
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Western Sydney,
Member for Granville

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1. INTRODUCTION

This year, for the first time, an outline of the key spending priorities and programs for Western Sydney are separately detailed in the Budget documents.

Greater Western Sydney occupies about 8000 square kilometres. Over 1.5 million people or 43 per cent of Sydney's population lives in the region and the population is growing more than seven times faster than the Australian average.

For the purposes of this Statement, Western Sydney is defined as an area including the Bankstown and Auburn local government areas, westward from Granville to and including the Blue Mountains local government area, and from the Hawkesbury River in the north to the Wollondilly local government area in the south.

The Western Sydney Budget Statement details funding the State Government has committed in 1998-99 to encourage investment and job security, to support families and communities, to deliver better Government services, and to improve and conserve the environment in Western Sydney.

The Statement is not a description of every Government initiative which will impact in Western Sydney in 1998-99, 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 the area in the coming financial year.

The Statement gives Government agencies and the community a summary of where funds are being spent. It will be an important planning tool for assessing future funding and service delivery priorities in Western Sydney.



WESTERN SYDNEY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS:

WSROC (Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils):

- **Baulkham Hills**
- **Blacktown**
- **Blue Mountains**
- **Fairfield**
- **Hawkesbury**
- **Holroyd**
- **Liverpool**
- **Parramatta**
- **Penrith**

MACROC (Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils):

- **Camden**
- **Campbelltown**
- **Penrith**

And the local government areas of:

- **Auburn**
- **Bankstown**

2. FUNDING IN WESTERN SYDNEY 1998-99

The New South Wales Government's 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;
- ⇒ better Government services; and
- ⇒ protecting the environment.

The initiatives outlined provide an indicative rather than an exhaustive list of all programs and expenditure which will impact on Western Sydney in 1998-99.

2.1 SECURING JOBS AND INVESTMENT IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Western Sydney is an economic powerhouse of Australia. The population of the region is growing more than seven times faster than the Australian average and provides around one fifth of the labour force of New South Wales. Western Sydney contributes \$35 billion to Australia's Gross Domestic Product, which represents around one-quarter of the Gross State Product. More than 90 of the nation's top 500 exporting companies are based in the region.

The region's economy is diverse and supports strong agribusiness, manufacturing, business services and high technology firms, as well as wholesale, retail and distribution companies. Parramatta is the State's second city of commerce (after the Sydney Central Business District). Other major business centres in Western Sydney include Campbelltown, Bankstown, Blacktown, Liverpool and Penrith.

The Government is working with business, unions and the community to develop the regional economy into a prosperous, internationally competitive one, which attracts and retains investment and creates sustainable employment. Many Government programs, initiatives and services which encourage private sector investment and job creation in Western Sydney are summarised in this Statement.

In addition, the State Government assists employment directly through investment in major infrastructure and by the location of State Government agencies in the region. Departments and agencies which provide economic services and which have head offices in Western Sydney include the Department of Fair Trading (based in Parramatta), the Department of Housing (Liverpool), the Department of Local Government (Bankstown), Landcom (Parramatta), the Office of State Revenue (Parramatta), and Integral Energy (Blacktown).

There are also more than 30 State Government local offices located in Western Sydney to assist business in the region (including the Department of State and Regional Development, Industrial Relations, Transport, TAFE and WorkCover).

The Olympic Coordination Authority and the Olympic Roads and Transport Authority also play a special role in providing significant employment and investment opportunities through infrastructure and facilities construction, transport and events management initiatives (see section 3 of this Statement).

Government programs, initiatives and services for which funding has been allocated in 1998-99, and which will encourage investment and job creation in Western Sydney are outlined below.

State and Regional Development

The **Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board** will continue to advise the Government on the economic development of Western Sydney. Comprising leading representatives of the business sector, the Board is funded by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development and approximately **\$200,000** will be allocated in 1998-99.

A major undertaking of the Board in the coming year will be the launch of the **Greater Western Sydney Marketing Program for 1998-99** to promote Western Sydney as a key location for local, State, national and international business. Funding for the Program in 1998-99 will be approximately **\$80,000**. The Board will also provide **\$80,000** for the **Western Sydney Import Replacement Expo** in 1998-99.

Under the **Industries Assistance Fund**, it is expected that almost **\$2.2 million** in industry support payments will be provided to Western Sydney in 1998-99.

The **Greater Western Sydney Investment Centre**, established by the Government, is successfully attracting high levels of private sponsorship and will receive approximately **\$80,000** in direct State Government funding in 1998-99.

Public Infrastructure

As well as actively encouraging private sector investment, the Government is creating jobs and opportunities by funding **major new and ongoing capital infrastructure projects** in the Western Sydney region.

Apart from the Olympics Budget, which is detailed separately in this Statement (section 3), close to **\$800 million** will be allocated to **capital works** in 1998-99 in Western Sydney by Government agencies, including state owned corporations.

Some of the major capital projects are outlined below.

- Over **\$45 million** is allocated for major **new projects** for **school education facilities** including new schools constructed at Currans Hill, Carnes Hill, and Nirimba. This includes over **\$30 million** for major works to upgrade facilities at a number of existing schools across the region.
- **\$16.4 million** is allocated for works at **TAFE facilities** at Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Campbelltown, Granville, Liverpool, Mount Druitt, Nirimba, Padstow, Quakers Hill and Wetherill Park.
- Over **\$110 million** is allocated to **new facilities and accommodation at hospitals, nursing homes and community health centres** including facilities at Blacktown, Baulkham Hills, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Katoomba, Penrith, Rosemeadow, Tahmoor, Westmead and Wentworth Falls.
- **\$15.6 million** is allocated for **improvements to corrective services facilities**, including new works at Parklea, Silverwater, and a new facility next to the John Morony Correctional Centre at South Windsor.
- **\$44.8 million** is allocated for **improvements to public transport facilities** including upgrading of the Liverpool Station and Interchange, the Richmond Line, Bankstown Station, easy access and safe stations projects. The 20 kilometre Liverpool Parramatta bus-only Transitway, to be built at a total cost of \$100 million, will commence construction in 1998-99.
- **\$140 million** is allocated for **major road and bridge projects**, including construction, maintenance and rehabilitation works, road safety and traffic management works and public transport infrastructure projects.
- **\$56.9 million** is allocated to the **construction or purchase of housing for people on low incomes** in Western Sydney.
- **\$3.4 million** is allocated for a new Police Station at Auburn and other capital works on **police facilities**, including upgrading the Police Station at Narellan.
- **\$7.2 million** is allocated for spending on **Regional Parks** at Parramatta, Leacock (Casula), Rouse Hill, and Western Sydney (Horsley Park), National Parks at Scheyville and Castlereagh, as well as Bicentennial Park, and Mount Annan Botanic Garden.
- **\$2 million** is allocated for a **new Children's Court** at Campbelltown.

- **\$16.4 million** is allocated for **emergency services** including provision of new tankers, firefighting equipment and facilities at Rosemeadow, Narellan, Cecil Hills, Prestons, Regentville and Eastern Creek.
- **\$4 million** is allocated for **new athletics tracks** at Bankstown and Blacktown.
- **The Archives Authority of NSW** will spend **\$3.1 million** in 1998-99, to extend its facility at Kingswood to store additional State archives.

(Note that more information on Government capital works can be found in Budget Paper No. 4.)

Funding of more than **\$270 million** will be allocated in 1998-99 to capital works projects in Western Sydney by **government trading enterprises** and **state owned corporations**. These projects will create investment and jobs in the region, and include electricity substations, railway tracks (including a feasibility study for the Parramatta/Chatswood rail link), water storage and sewage treatment plants, landfill and waste projects.

For example, projects to be undertaken by **Sydney Water Corporation** in the region include:

- **\$8.9 million** in 1998-99 for a major upgrade to the **Warragamba Dam** involving the construction of an auxiliary spillway at a total cost of \$115 million (to commence during 1998-99), to significantly improve the safety of the dam and protect Sydney's water supply;
- **\$12 million** in 1998-99 for the construction of a **Water Factory** to treat effluent to desirable standards using the latest water treatment technology; the plant, to cost a total of \$15 million, will collect operational and water quality data over several years and the information will be used to judge the safety and merits of potable reuse;
- **\$10.9 million** in 1998-99 of a \$135 million five year **Infiltration/Exfiltration sewer repair program**, to rectify the problem of excessive infiltration/exfiltration in the existing sewer system and to reduce the pollution of local waterways and the surrounding environment;
- in excess of **\$24 million** for continuation of work on significant **upgrades to Sewage Treatment Plants** in the region to improve reliability and increase performance, including Blackheath, Castle Hill, Glenbrook, Penrith, Richmond, West Camden and Winmalee Sewage Treatment Plants.

Integral Energy's corporate head office is located in Blacktown. This state owned corporation retails and distributes electricity in Sydney's west and beyond to more than 720,000 households and businesses. **Integral Energy** has allocated over **\$33 million to capital projects** in Western Sydney in 1998-99. It also has more than 2,000 employees throughout its operational area, including 1,400 in Western Sydney.

Tourism

The Sydney Tourism Strategy, launched in 1997, aims to develop Sydney as a visitor destination, with plans to promote Sydney's attractions beyond its icons. Under the Strategy, the **Sydney Tourism Experience Development Program** will fund projects to assist local groups to promote their local area. **\$77,000** is available in 1998-99 for Western Sydney with a maximum of \$20,000 per project and a maximum of \$30,000 to any one area.

The **Regional Tourism Strategy** provides the framework for strong, cohesive and well marketed tourism products and destinations throughout New South Wales. The strategy is underpinned by an annual \$7 million investment in regional tourism. Through the **Greater Western Sydney Regional Tourism Organisation** (Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith) base resource funding for the region will be provided in 1998-99.

Tourism New South Wales also provides funding for:

- **Visnet** (tourism computer database) to Visitor Information Centres across the region, including approximately **\$12,000** in 1998-99 for Baulkham Hills, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Parramatta, Glenbrook and Penrith;
- **Sydney Hallmark Event Funding** with a Sydney Food and Wine Festival planned for June 1998 with seed funding of **\$200,000** (food "trails" are planned for Flemington Markets and Cabramatta);
- **Regional Flagship Events** whereby Regional Tourism organisations can apply for funding with a maximum of \$25,000 per event.

Skills development and resources

Funding for **Western Sydney and South Western Sydney TAFE Institutes** will be **\$198 million** in 1998-99 (\$94 million and \$104 million respectively). Over **90,000 students** attend the two TAFE institutions in Western Sydney annually, providing a skilled resource for the region. The most significant growth in student numbers has taken place in areas where major capital works have recently been undertaken including the Blue Mountains, Nirimba and Richmond.

More than **\$8 million** will be available for **industry training programs** in Western Sydney in 1998-99 through Department of Education and Training **Industry Training Services Centres** located at Bankstown, Liverpool and Parramatta. The major roles of the Centres are to promote vocational education and training reform, skills formation, apprenticeships and traineeships, and to strengthen links with industry and provide advice in industry training needs in the regions within which they operate.

The construction of a major extension to the **Department of Mineral Resources Core Library at Londonderry** will continue at a cost of **\$1.1 million** in 1998-99. This will hold approximately 120,000 boxes of diamond drill core which will provide a valuable resource for coal, petroleum and mineral exploration in the State.

Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology was established in December 1997 to coordinate the public sector's management and use of information technology and telecommunications, as outlined in the document **Blueprint**.

The NSW Government's homepage **ServiceNSW** (<http://www.nsw.gov.au>) ensures communities receive useful and efficient access to government services. This will provide the people of Western Sydney with a range of transactions that can be carried out over the Internet without having to travel into the inner city or interstate. ServiceNSW will also encourage the creation of employment and business opportunities.

The network of local councils and libraries with access to the Internet will expand, encouraging the exchange of information through **NSW.net**, an initiative of the State Library of New South Wales. NSW.net is able to support PCs at each library and offers fast unlimited access to the Internet for library patrons.

Other Budget initiatives which will benefit Western Sydney include the strategy for tackling the **Year 2000 Millennium Bug** and the continued operation of the **Government Radio Network**.

2.2 SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Western Sydney is a demographically diverse and cosmopolitan region. It has suburbs of relative wealth, areas with higher than average rates of unemployment, with the majority of people having income distributions between these two extremes. Western Sydney has a younger than average population, great ethnic diversity with 25 per cent of the population from non English speaking backgrounds, and large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Furthermore, the region faces continuing demographic change as a result of its higher than average rates of population growth.

The Government has a strong focus on supporting families and communities in Western Sydney. The concentration of effort on health centres and services in

the growth areas of Western Sydney has been one of the State Government's major priorities over the past three years.

There are more than 14 public hospitals in Western Sydney, including teaching hospitals at Bankstown, Liverpool, Nepean and Westmead, the Dental Hospital and the New Children's Hospital at Westmead. Redevelopment of Blacktown Hospital to provide 364 beds is underway.

State Government support for families and communities has increased at a time when Western Sydney has seen the withdrawal of Commonwealth Employment Service Offices. Commonwealth funding changes, including cuts to health programs such as the Pensioner Dental program, have also adversely affected the provision of family resources, child care, legal aid, public housing, courses at the University of Western Sydney and training programs for non-English speaking Australians in the region.

The State Government supports families and communities in Western Sydney through agencies such as the Attorney General's Department through the courts, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Ageing and Disability Department, the Department of Community Services, the Department of Education and Training, NSW Health, the Department of Housing (which has its Head Office in Liverpool), the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Rural Fire Service (which has its Head Office at Rosehill), the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, the Department for Women, the Ethnic Affairs Commission, the Home Care Service (based at Parramatta), TAFE, and the NSW Police Service which works with local communities to ensure public safety in the region.

Government programs, initiatives and services for which funding has been allocated in 1998-99, and which will support families and communities in Western Sydney, are outlined below.

Health

The 1998-99 Budget provides continued support to all Area Health Services particularly those in the population growth areas of South Western Sydney, Western Sydney and Wentworth.

A number of significant **capital works** will be carried out in Western Sydney at an estimated total cost of \$400.3 million, of which funds in excess of **\$110 million** will be expended in 1998-99, to significantly enhance the level of service provided to the region.

Major capital projects to be undertaken, continued or completed in 1998-99 include:

- commencement of **Bodington Hospital Nursing Home** at Wentworth Falls (**\$9.1 million**);

- commencement of **Governor Philip Nursing Home** at Penrith (**\$7.4 million**);
 - completion of **Stage 1 Nepean Hospital** redevelopment (**\$2 million** in 1998-99 - \$99 million total project cost);
 - continuation of **Stage 2 Nepean Hospital** redevelopment, including a new women's and children's health building (**\$27 million** in 1998-99 - \$61.2 million total project cost);
 - continuation of **Blacktown Hospital** redevelopment (**\$40 million** in 1998-99 - \$96.1 million total project cost);
 - commencement of the **Macarthur Sector Strategy** which includes redevelopment of Camden Hospital and upgrading Campbelltown Hospital by 2001, building two new community health centres, mobile vans to assist isolated areas and a child care centre in Camden/Wollondilly (**\$6.8 million** in 1998-99 - \$79 million total project cost);
 - construction of **Rosemeadow** and **Tahmoor Community Health Centres** (**\$4.7 million** in 1998-99 - \$6.6 million total project cost);
 - completion of **Blue Mountains Hospital** upgrade (**\$4 million**);
 - establishment of the **NSW Breast Cancer Institute** at Westmead (**\$3.1 million**);
- new premises for **Wilma Women's Centre** in Campbelltown (**\$300,000**);
- provision of over **\$4 million** for **Mental Health Services** in Western Sydney in 1998-99 for commencement of a Child and Adolescent Administration Unit at Fairfield, completion of the Pialla Psychiatric Unit at Penrith, completion of a Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit at Cumberland Hospital (\$3.5 million, estimated total cost), and construction of the Pialla Admission Unit (\$679,000).

NSW Health will also provide significant funds to maintain and expand specialised services provided to Western Sydney, as outlined below.

Child and Youth Services will receive over **\$11 million** in funding in 1998-99. **Paediatric Inpatient Services** at Bankstown, Campbelltown, Fairfield and Liverpool will be provided with almost **\$3 million** for assessment, management and treatment services in 1998-99. Further funding will be provided under the South West Sydney Area Health Service Child Protection and Community Paediatric Services (**\$1.2 million**), and the Karitane Family Support Organisation (**\$3.1 million**). Specialised Child and Adolescent Mental Health programs (**\$410,000**) will be provided in the Wentworth Area (Nepean and Blue Mountains).

Funds of **\$354,000** will be allocated for positions and programs in areas such as obstetrics and psychology to assist the **Aboriginal community** in a partnership between the Wentworth Area Health Service and the Daruk Aboriginal Community Medical Service.

Mental Health Programs will be conducted in Western Sydney during 1998-99 including the provision of assessment and ongoing treatment at:

- Liverpool/Fairfield Mental Health Services (**\$2.4 million**);
- Liverpool Mental Health Inpatient Unit (**\$2.5 million**);
- Bankstown Community Mental Health Services and Inpatient Unit (**\$5 million**);
- Campbelltown Inpatient Mental Health Services (**\$2.4 million**);
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (**\$1.14 million**).

Clinical services and early intervention programs will be provided through the **Adult Mental Health Teaching and Research Unit (\$1 million)**.

Overall \$14 million will be provided for suicide prevention programs in New South Wales of which a component will be allocated to Western Sydney.

Aged Care in Western Sydney will receive over **\$31 million** in 1998-99, including:

- **\$9.6 million** for operating costs on the new Braeside Hospital at Fairfield which is providing palliative and geriatric care and rehabilitation services;
- **\$4.1 million** for operating costs for Carrington Centennial Nursing Home;
- **\$2.7 million** for capital works on the Queen Victoria Nursing Home at Picton;
- over **\$6 million** for Aged Care services in Bankstown, as well as **\$1 million** for Geriatric Assessment Teams in Western Sydney which assess aged care clients for nursing home placement in the region (operating costs);
- **\$487,000** will be provided for the Pain Management Service at Nepean Hospital which helps people manage chronic pain and to take control of their lives;
- **\$145,000** will be provided for the Blue Mountains Aged Care Assessment Team for operating costs;
- **\$1.5 million** for the Camden Aged Care and Rehabilitation Inpatient Service for operating costs.

Other plans for 1998-99 include expenditure on operating costs for a new service in **Cabramatta** including a mobile unit and needle exchanges and an Adult Detoxification Program (**\$1.5 million** per annum).

Western Sydney will receive **19 new ambulance vehicles**, including a specialist paramedic ambulance, purchased as part of a \$24 million upgrade of the State's Ambulance Service fleet.

Education and Training

The Government recognises that by giving young people effective education and training opportunities, we are giving them the best possible chance for their future.

The Department of Education and Training will commit over **\$45 million** on **capital works** in Western Sydney during 1998-99. New schools will be constructed at Currans Hill, Carnes Hill and Nirimba. More than **\$30 million** will be spent on major works to upgrade facilities at a number of existing schools across the region.

The Department will continue to implement its **Computers in Schools Policy**. The Department of Education and Training has distributed the equivalent of 70,000 computers to schools across New South Wales under the Program. Over 16,300 computers were distributed to Government schools in Western Sydney.

Funding provided in this State Budget will result in the Government meeting its commitment to provide 90,000 computers across the State.

Government schools in Western Sydney will receive approximately 30 per cent of the additional computers announced in this Budget, bringing approximately 23,000 computers in total to Government schools in the region since 1995.

The Government will again distribute the **Back to School Allowance** to assist families with the expense of children returning to school. It is expected that over **\$17 million** will be distributed to families in Western Sydney in 1998-99.

The **Literacy Support Program** will be continued. **\$19.2 million** is to be provided for literacy programs in schools throughout Western Sydney for 1998. This will include a new English K-6 syllabus, and additional resources to schools to support programs for students from non English speaking backgrounds, Indigenous students and all year 7 students involved in the English Language and Literacy Assessment testing.

A significant component of the Literacy Support Program is the **Reading Recovery Program**. The Program provides intensive one-on-one instruction to students who are having difficulties with reading and writing in their first years at school. Close to one third of the State's Reading Recovery Program teaching positions have been appointed to Western Sydney. In 1998, 163 schools and nearly 2,000 students in the region will participate in the Reading Recovery Program.

\$7.4 million will be provided in direct assistance to some 155 schools in Western Sydney in 1998-99, within the **Disadvantaged Schools Program**. These funds will be used to improve literacy levels for disadvantaged young people.

The Program includes support for targeted projects in literacy, training and development for teachers and community members, the development of school community partnerships in educational efforts, and a reform of school and classroom organisation. The **Student Assistance Scheme** provides financial support to those students whose families are in greatest financial need.

Over \$6 million will be allocated across the State in 1998-99, for a range of special programs to be conducted which assist disadvantaged young people by improving their literacy, numeracy and self esteem. The programs include the **Helping Early Leavers Program, Circuit Breaker, Time Out and Koori Youth Programs.**

In 1996, the **Student Language Study in Overseas Countries Program** was piloted in Western Sydney. Funds of \$250,000 were provided for senior secondary language students from the region to undertake intensive in-country study. In 1998, the Program is supporting 93 students from Western Sydney schools.

\$2.1 million funding will be allocated in 1998-99 for **Vocational Education** for secondary school students in Western Sydney under the **Local Vocational Education and Training in Schools Committees Program**, which will encourage and coordinate provision of quality vocational education and training in schools and TAFE NSW colleges for senior secondary students. Five committees have been established in Western Sydney at Blacktown/Parramatta, Liverpool, Fairfield, Penrith/Mt Druitt and Campbelltown.

Over **\$2 million** funding will be provided in 1998 to enable students in Western Sydney to take part in the **Joint Secondary Schools TAFE Program**, which broadens the subject options available to senior secondary students by allowing them to include subjects from TAFE courses in their Higher School Certificate program and, at the same time, gain a credit towards a TAFE Certificate level qualification. This program has a very high level of demand in Western Sydney and funding for the Program is a priority for the Government.

TAFE

Western Sydney TAFE will undertake **capital works** to the value of over **\$16 million** in 1998-99 to improve facilities at Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Campbelltown, Granville, Liverpool, Mount Druitt, Nirimba, Padstow, Quakers Hill, and Wetherill Park.

More than **\$8 million** will be available for **industry training programs** in Western Sydney in 1998-99 through Department of Education and Training Industry Training Services Centres located at Parramatta, Liverpool and Bankstown.

The major roles of the Centres are to promote vocational education and training reform, skills formation, apprenticeships and traineeships and to strengthen links with industry and provide advice in industry training needs in the regions within which they operate.

Through 1998 funding, the centres will provide allocations to public and private training organisations for training delivery through contracted training programs as well as programs for young people, Aboriginal people, mature workers and traineeships.

Women

On International Women's Day 1998, the Premier affirmed the Government's agenda for women: to protect and enhance the rights of women in New South Wales, while encouraging their aspirations.

In 1998-99, the Department for Women will continue to oversee the implementation of strategies contained in the NSW Government Action Plan for Women. These strategies focus on six key areas which are to be tackled across Government:

- reducing violence;
- promoting workplace equity;
- maximising the interests of women in micro-economic reform;
- promoting the position of women in all aspects of society;
- access to education and training;
- improving the health and quality of life of women in New South Wales.

In 1998-99 \$1 million will be provided under the **NSW Women's Grants Program**. The program is targeted at women with limited access to social and economic resources. (In 1997-98 the NSW Program was twice the size of the Commonwealth's national program). Last year the NSW Program included funding for projects managed by the Fairfield Multicultural and Family Planning Centre (\$79,000) and the NSW Working Women's Centre at Parramatta (\$80,000). Grants are expected to be made to other projects in Western Sydney in 1998-99.

Significant funds will be provided in 1998-99 to enhance the level of **Women's Health** in Western Sydney, including:

- **\$3.2 million** for the establishment of the **NSW Breast Cancer Institute at Westmead** which will undertake breast cancer research and develop best practice surgery activities;
- **\$1.3 million** for Cervical Screening;
- **\$1.2 million** per annum for Gynaecology and Oncology Services at Westmead to be enhanced to provide a tertiary level surgical and diagnostic service - it will include establishment of a MidLink Menopause Clinic (**\$275,000**);

- **\$682,000** to fund counselling services at Liverpool Women's Health Centre and Wilma Women's Health Centre.

Other programs which will assist women in Western Sydney in 1998-99 include:

- the **Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program** - priorities in 1998-99 will be to raise awareness amongst non-English speaking background women of the availability of the services, and to establish new schemes in areas of high need;
- provision of funding for **refuges for women escaping domestic violence** under the joint Commonwealth-State funded Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP);
- further implementation of the **Gender Equity Strategy** through a pilot program to integrate gender equity in mainstream school planning processes;
- the **Women's Sport Unit** to enhance opportunities for women to participate in sport and recreation and a **Sports Administration and Travel Scholarship** to enable talented women to become senior sports administrators (approximately 22 women will receive scholarships under the program);
- the **Women in Business** mentor program to create links between women entrepreneurs and women business owners to share their knowledge and experiences.

Services for children, families, older people and people with special needs

The **Department of Community Services** provides services in assisting disadvantaged or vulnerable families and children, adolescents and communities, as well as supporting people with disabilities.

Western Sydney is covered by three Area Offices within the Department of Community Services at Nepean, South West Sydney and Cumberland/Prospect. The combined operating budget for the three Area Offices for 1998-99 is in the order of **\$150 million**. A further **\$2.3 million** will be provided for **capital works** funding in 1998-99, including maintenance of existing departmental assets and asbestos removal.

Major initiatives which are conducted or funded by the Department of Community Services in Western Sydney include:

- **child protection programs** including family support services, joint investigations with the Police Service, and funding for counselling services;
- **substitute care programs** including foster care placements, group homes, intensive residential care and carer support;
- **adoption** placement, support and family reunion programs;
- **family support programs** including adolescent support services, child protection and counselling services;
- **children's services** including pre-schools, occasional care, long day care, family day care and vacation care;

- provision of **community resources** including funding of concessions for people with special needs, community development programs, neighbourhood centres and support for community groups;
- the **Supported Accommodation Assistance Program** which provides crisis and medium term accommodation for families, mothers and children.

The Department, through its Disability Unit, also provides support and assistance for people with a disability to enable them to achieve greater independence through accommodation, respite care, community support and advice and independent living training.

Consistent with the Government's commitment to preventative care and early intervention, the 1998-99 Budget has allocated funds to the new **Families First Program**. This significant initiative aims to strengthen and extend the parenting skills of parents in New South Wales who have a child under eight.

Families First will provide \$1.35 million to the Department of Community Services and the Office of Children and Young People in 1998-99 for the developmental phase of the Program, to ensure the Program has a sound foundation in consultation and planning, with well trained staff and effective evaluation and monitoring systems. South Western Sydney will be part of this first phase.

(Note that new and changed services will commence during the 1999-2000 year. An additional \$2.4 million will be provided to the Department of Community Services in that year, and then \$5 million annually in future years. \$700,000 will be provided annually to the Office of Children and Young People to maintain the training, development and evaluation functions).

\$500,000 will be allocated to a pilot for the **Schools as Community Centres Program** in 1998-99, representing a contribution from four departments (Education and Training, Health, Community Services, and Housing). Approximately **\$125,000** of the expenditure will occur in Western Sydney at the Curran Community Centre (Macquarie Fields). The program helps families with children aged 0-5 years by preventing disadvantage at school entry. The Curran Centre assists at least 80 families a week.

An evaluation report has found that the outcomes of the Program are increased literacy, immunisation, enrolments in transition-to-school programs and before-school health screenings, a greater readiness for school, reduced absenteeism, and child abuse and neglect confirmations, and increased family and community involvement. This program will be integrated into the Government's new Families First initiative over a period of years.

\$500,000 in 1998-99 is being provided for the **International Year of Older Persons in 1999**. This will assist the co-ordination of the International Year and

will include funding for one-off grants to community organisations under the Healthy Ageing Grants Program. Western Sydney organisations will receive some of these grants.

From 1998-99, an additional \$350,000 per annum will be provided to allow continuation of the **Seniors Information Service** which provides a telephone information service, for the price of a local call, about issues of relevance to older people, such as housing and health services.

The Ageing and Disability Department will undertake **demonstration projects** in Western Sydney in 1998-99 to improve access to public transport for people with a disability and older people. Demonstration projects, which may act as models for wider use will be undertaken at Blacktown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Warwick Farm, at a total cost of over **\$100,000** in 1998-99. The projects include a fully-integrated, full-size wheelchair accessible bus service, door to door services for older people who cannot access bus stops and who are concerned about walking through suburbs unaccompanied, extension of services to hospitals and shopping precincts, and signal buses without fixed stops.

\$14 million additional funding per annum will be provided across the State from 1998-99 to meet **crisis accommodation and support needs** for people with a disability. Some of this funding will be applied in Western Sydney. This allocation will enable the Government to meet a significant part of the need for accommodation support arising from individual crisis and family breakdown, and will assist organisations wishing to improve the quality of their services in accordance with the requirements of the *Disability Services Act 1993*.

\$235,000 will be made available through the Children's Disability Services Package to fund an **Intensive Family Support** project for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with disabilities** and their families. The project will target families in the Nepean area who are having difficulty coping or are considering placing their children in out-of-home care. \$38,000 has been invested in liaising with the Indigenous community in the Nepean area and to assist with the establishment of the project.

The Government will provide an additional \$4.6 million per annum from 1998-99 for **Post School Options** across the State. This allocation will enable Post School Options places to be provided to eligible school leavers with a disability who will be finishing school in 1998.

The Government has committed to fully match the Commonwealth offer on the **Home and Community Care (HACC) Program** by allocating an additional \$2.8 million to the Program across New South Wales in 1998-99. The Program will provide an increase in the basic maintenance and support services for frail and aged persons and younger people with disabilities to enable them to stay in their own homes.

The allocation of recurrent HACC funds to the **South Western Sydney Area** was almost **\$550,000** in 1997-98 and it is expected that this amount will be **increased in 1998-99**.

New projects which will be funded in Western Sydney under the HACC program in the South Western Sydney Area include a **respite care service for people with a disability** in Fairfield and Liverpool, **individual community transport services** in Bankstown, Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly and a **Home Help/Neighbour Aid service** in Campbelltown.

In 1997-98, Commonwealth and State Government funding provided under the HACC Program to the Cumberland/Prospect Area was over **\$360,000**, and over **\$300,000** to the Nepean Area. Both of these amounts are expected to increase under the joint Commonwealth/State commitment to increase funding under the HACC Program in 1998-99.

The **Police and Community Training Program** is jointly sponsored by the Police Service and the Ethnic Affairs Commission at a cost of \$480,000 over three years. The program was established in 1996 as a pilot project at Marrickville. In late 1997 additional projects were established including Cabramatta.

In July 1997, the Government established **Joint Investigation Teams** at **Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith**, as a joint project between the NSW Police Service and the Department of Community Services. The aim of the Teams is to improve the investigation of child abuse allegations and to minimise distress to child abuse victims through closer cooperation between Police and Community Services officers. **\$2.4 million** has been allocated for the Program in Western Sydney in 1998-99.

It is estimated that over **\$1 million** will be provided for the **Youth Justice Conferencing Program** in Western Sydney in 1998-99, with the objective of directing minor offenders away from the court system towards alternative community based programs. In Western Sydney, Youth Justice Conferencing Administrators are located at Blacktown, Campbelltown, Fairfield and Werrington. The Program will also employ **Aboriginal convenors** in Western Sydney to provide support for Aboriginal young people who come into contact with the justice system.

The Department of Fair Trading will continue to improve tenancy support services for people living in Western Sydney through increased funding for the **Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program** with an enhancement of **24 per cent** in 1998-99 to **\$415,000**. The tenancy services offer advice and advocacy to all tenants in the Western Sydney region, with emphasis on Aboriginal tenants, tenants of non English speaking backgrounds, older tenants and tenants with a disability. An outreach service is also provided in the Blue Mountains and Richmond areas, and there are plans to provide outreach to the Penrith area.

The Government will continue to provide **Financial Counselling**. Western Sydney services which provide face-to-face counselling will be funded to the extent of **\$284,000** in 1998-99.

Transport assistance programs provide payments to private operators and other community groups. \$50.7 million is allocated to these programs in 1998-99 compared to \$47.6 million in 1997-98. A significant proportion of this funding will impact in Western Sydney. It includes funding for concessions such as half-fare concessions for pensioners, transport subsidies provided under the Community Transport Program (which will be increased by \$200,000 in 1998-99), Home and Community Care program and subsidies for half-fare taxi transport for persons unable to utilise public transport because of severe and/or permanent disabilities.

In addition to the community transport program detailed above and other transport concessions programs detailed elsewhere in this Statement, the NSW Government also provides an **extensive range of social program funding** to improve the quality of life for recipients in terms of their participation in the life of the community, mobility and physical health maintenance. These include concessions for water, electricity, gas, travel and local council rates, drivers licences, car registrations and dental care. Many people living in Western Sydney benefit from these social programs.

Housing

In 1998-99 the Government will allocate approximately **\$56.9 million** to the **construction or purchase of housing** for people on low incomes in Western Sydney. Over \$20 million will be allocated to community housing organisations, while \$36.9 million will be allocated to the Department of Housing for new public dwellings.

A number of these projects will be targeted to **people with special needs**, especially older people and people with disabilities or mental illness who need support in the home so that they can maintain their independence. Projects include expenditure of \$340,000 in Blacktown, \$320,000 in the Blue Mountains, \$340,000 in Holroyd, \$546,000 in Parramatta, and \$200,000 in Penrith, for people with disabilities, and \$650,000 for aged residents at Holroyd.

In 1998-99, it is proposed to spend an additional \$10 million (sourced from Rental Bond Board accumulated funds) to implement initiatives aimed at **increasing the supply of affordable housing** some of which will involve Western Sydney locations.

The Government is committed to significantly upgrading the existing social housing stock. Expenditure proposed includes over **\$24.4 million** for **capital improvements** to, and **\$36.07 million** for **maintenance and repairs** of, existing public housing in the region.

The Government is continuing its commitment to the **Neighbourhood Improvement Program** initiative, an integrated approach to the improvement of the social and physical conditions of public housing estates. Expenditure under this Program in Western Sydney in 1998-99 includes **\$4 million** allocated to the **Bidwill** estate in Mount Druitt to continue extensive improvement work, **\$15 million** to complete the physical improvement to the **Airds** and **Macquarie Fields** estates and **\$1 million** for the **Mount Pleasant** estate to begin physical improvements. **\$2.07 million** will be spent over the next three years to upgrade **Aboriginal housing** in the Western Sydney region.

Although planning for the 1998-2000 **Aboriginal Housing Program** has not been finalised, the housing needs of Aboriginal people in the Western Sydney region will continue to be recognised. Regional Aboriginal Housing Committees have prioritised three Aboriginal Housing organisations in Western Sydney for funding in 1998, and it is expected that almost half of the total new units for the metropolitan region will be allocated to Western Sydney.

The Government has recently introduced legislation to establish an **Aboriginal Housing Office** to consolidate and oversee Aboriginal housing services as part of its commitment to improved housing options for Aboriginal people. The new Housing Office will be located in Parramatta.

Cabramatta Project

The Premier's Department will continue the **Cabramatta Project** in 1998-99. The Project aims to improve the level of government services to Cabramatta by enhancing coordination between government agencies, and between government and the community and business sectors in the area. The Project also has the specific objective of reducing illicit drug use and its adverse impact on the Cabramatta community. Funding of **\$180,000** will be provided to the Cabramatta Project in 1998-99.

Sport and Recreation

\$4 million has been allocated to the development of **Athletics Tracks at Bankstown and Blacktown** to leave a lasting legacy for athletics and to meet travel time requirements for athletes attending the Olympic Games. The Athletics Tracks will be built adjacent to two Olympic competition venues, the Olympic Velodrome at The Crest, Bankstown, and the Softball Competition Venue that will be developed at Aquilina Reserve, Blacktown.

\$200,000 has been allocated in 1998-99 for the **Western Sydney Academy of Sport** (for athletes drawn from Blacktown, Penrith and the Blue Mountains areas) and **\$200,000** for the **South West Sydney Academy of Sport** (including athletes from Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly).

The Academies facilitate sporting development by providing access to quality coaching, training, learning and skill development programs for young athletes with the potential to succeed at international level. Athletes and coaches use existing local facilities and equipment. Over **130 athletes** will benefit directly in each area by receiving an Academy Scholarship.

Programs conducted through the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation, Metropolitan West and South West Metropolitan Regional Offices include expenditure of **\$346,188** for 1998-99 for:

- **Swimsafe** which provides learn to swim lessons for adults, preschool and school age participants;
- **Holiday sport** programs for children;
- **Introductory Opportunities** which introduce participants to a sport or recreation activity;
- the **Volunteer Involvement Program** which provides education and awareness to help organisations gain, train, and retain volunteers;
- **Aquafitness** which provides physical activity in the water;
- **Fitness Leaders and Austswim Accreditation** which provides education and training of fitness and swimming instructors;
- **Sport Development** including seminars, courses and programs to assist coaches, officials, players and parents in many aspects of sport.

Public Safety

The NSW Police Service is committed to ensuring a safe environment for the people of Western Sydney and will continue in 1998-99 to work with communities in the region to achieve this goal.

A number of programs are underway, including:

- **\$2 million** for continued employment of **Community Safety Officers** and **Youth Liaison Officers** at each of the 20 Police Local Area Commands in Western Sydney;
- a major operation in **Cabramatta** at a cost of over **\$1 million** to increase the level of visibility of police present in the central business district and railway area to reduce the problem of drug dealing;
- a **Community and Road Education Scheme** at Blacktown at a cost of **over \$280,000 over 3 years**;
- an operation to reduce youth crime in Auburn at a cost of **\$34,000 per annum**;
- a **Community Safety Audit** at Auburn at a cost of **\$6,000**.

The NSW Police Service will spend **\$3.4 million** on **capital works** in 1998-99 in Western Sydney, including upgrading the Police Station at Narellan and construction of a new **police station** at a cost of over **\$2.8 million** at Auburn. The new Station will be located at the Auburn Council site and will become the Local Area Command.

\$4.25 million has been allocated across the State to the **Safer Communities Action Plan** initiative, which will give local residents a role in making their communities more secure. The Action Plan involves the appointment of 80 Community Safety Officers, the development of Local Community Safety Plans and local community consultation mechanisms. An officer will be located in every Local Area Command in Western Sydney (20 Officers).

In 1998-99 the Government has allocated \$11 million across the State to the **Safer Routes to School Program**. Through this program, the Government will work with schools, parents and local councils to ensure that young children are as safe as possible when they travel to and from school each day.

Supporting diversity

The Police Service will continue its **Ethnic Community Liaison Officers Program** in 1998-99. The program aims to provide a link between the Police and ethnic communities and enhance the relationships between communities and police. The Service has six administrative officers employed as Ethnic Community Liaison Officers in Western Sydney at Cabramatta (3), Fairfield (2) and Bankstown (1), at a cost of **\$240,000**.

The NSW Police Service will also develop an **Anti-racism Strategy** in 1998-99, at a cost of approximately \$40,000. The Strategy includes a prejudice related data collection project, an anti-racial vilification training package, and a complaints handling mechanism. This will include focus groups in Western Sydney.

Over **\$200,000** will be provided to organisations in Western Sydney by the **Ethnic Affairs Commission** under its **grants** program. **\$120,000** will also be provided to organisations in Western Sydney under the newly established **Community Partnership Scheme**, which targets priority ethnic affairs issues in the community and seeks to develop innovative ways to respond to community issues.

The **Western Sydney Regional Advisory Committee** provides feedback to the Ethnic Affairs Commission on the needs of the community in the Western Sydney area. The Government provides funds to resource the Committee.

Access to Government services relies upon the ability of the service provider and the client to be able to communicate effectively. \$4.6 million will be provided in 1998-99 for **interpreter and translation services** across the State. Included is a provision of \$600,000 as part of a three year commitment to provide for the 24-hour operation of the interpreter and translation service. This allows effective responses by agencies to all clients.

Total expenses of over \$86 million State-wide are included in the Department of Education and Training's 1998-99 budget under the **Non-English Speaking Background Program**. In addition, funding of over \$3.3 million will be provided in 1998-99 to implement the **Multicultural Education Plan 1998-2001**. These programs include support for non-English speaking background students in English language and literacy, assistance to schools in communicating with students' parents and communities, and support for teachers in their efforts to counter racism through training and development opportunities. A major proportion of these programs will be implemented in Western Sydney.

Over \$1 million is provided in 1998-99 to fund 18 additional **community language positions** in schools across the State. Seventy eight full-time positions have been allocated since the Government came to office, of which 37 have been allocated to primary schools in Western Sydney.

\$200,000 has been allocated in 1998-99 to the **Business Migration** initiative. This initiative aims to boost business start-ups and increase investment and employment opportunities by providing information in seven community languages, a business counselling/interpreter service, referrals and advice.

Arts

Rouse Hill House Museum, a property of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW within Rouse Hill Regional Park, has been allocated **\$591,000** in 1998-99. Of this funding, \$200,000 is for capital improvements and the balance for maintenance. The property is expected to be open to the public in the second half of 1998 on a limited basis, but with increasing accessibility over time.

The Ministry for the Arts **cultural grants program** will allocate approximately **\$2 million** in 1998-99 for grants to organisations/projects based in Western Sydney (in addition, many Sydney based organisations will receive grants which will be made available to the Western Sydney region). Organisations seeking grants are encouraged to present works created by artists from non English speaking backgrounds, facilitate the development of work or projects which reflect the diverse cultural identities within society, support new work based on cross-cultural interaction, and interpret and present traditional cultural work in an innovative context.

The Government supports the cultural life of the region through the cultural grants program outlined above and will provide in 1998-99:

- **\$100,000** for the **Western Sydney Regional Arts Program** to develop audiences for the arts, create opportunities for professional artists to interact with and work with the community, and to promote employment opportunities for professional artists and arts workers;

- **\$100,000** for the **Western Sydney Performing Arts Fund** to enable the major performing arts centres to present and tour new and innovative works (Casula Powerhouse, Parramatta Riverside Theatres, The Hills Centre and the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre at Penrith).

Community development

In 1998-99, the Government will again provide significant funds to community organisations in Western Sydney under the Area Assistance Scheme. Funding provided to the **Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme** and the **Macarthur Area Assistance Scheme** in 1997-98 was over **\$2.9 million** (over half the total amount provided across the State under the Scheme) and it is expected that the level of funding to the region will be maintained in 1998-99.

Family and community development services funded in 1997-98 included strengthening and preserving the culture of Aboriginal communities (for example, Blacktown, Campbelltown and Penrith Councils, and the Gillawarna Aboriginal Corporation), support for ethnic communities (for example, Australian Lebanese Welfare Group, Campbelltown Family Support Service, Holroyd Community Development Association and the Immigrant Women's Health Network), and support for parents and families (for example, Camden Area Children's Support Service, Down Syndrome Association of NSW, Hills Community Aid and Information Service, and the Lower Mountains Family Support Organisation).

Funding priorities for the 1998-99 round will focus on issues such as employment, safety, programs and facilities for children and young people, support for cultural tolerance and organisational development.

2.3 BETTER GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The urban development of Western Sydney has occurred rapidly since the 1950s. This has contributed to backlogs in Government and private sector services. The industrial and employment make-up of the region is rapidly changing from a predominantly agricultural and manufacturing region to one with a large finance, property and business services sector (including an expanding information technology sector) and large education and community services sectors.

These major changes require Government action to both overcome the historical backlogs in infrastructure and services, and to provide new opportunities to individuals, community organisations and the private sector to benefit from these changes.

For these reasons, in December 1997 the Premier appointed the first ever position of Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney with several roles, including facilitating improvements in Government services to Western Sydney.

The Minister for Western Sydney is supported by the Office of Western Sydney, which will be based at the University of Western Sydney, Westmead and which will provide high level, strategic policy advice to Government. The Office of Western Sydney will be developing whole of government and regional approaches to economic development, social and environmental priorities in the region. The Office will play a major role in creating partnerships with Government agencies, regional businesses and community organisations.

The Premier's Department has employed a new Western Sydney Regional Coordinator to "fast-track" strategic, large and complex investments projects in Western Sydney.

State Government agencies are delivering new or upgraded infrastructure, facilities and services to better meet the needs of individuals, families, communities, business and the environment in Western Sydney.

In addition, the Ministry of Urban Infrastructure Management, established by this Government, plays a key role in achieving a more coordinated and efficient delivery of State Government infrastructure in urban areas, including Western Sydney. By identifying priority projects and issues for infrastructure provision, the Ministry's work enables resources to be used more effectively and equitably to better meet regional needs.

Government programs, initiatives and services for which funding has been allocated in 1998-99 and which are contributing to the better delivery of Government services in Western Sydney are outlined below.

Transport

The Government is implementing the **Greater Western Sydney Transport Strategy** to provide real improvements to transport in the region.

Western Sydney is a key transport priority for the NSW Government. The Transport portfolio has a clear focus on delivering projects and planning strategies in Western Sydney which improve frequency and efficiency, provide easy and direct access to existing stations for commuters and makes interchanges work better. The Transport agencies (Department of Transport, Rail Services Authority, CityRail and Rail Access Corporation) all share a common goal of delivering safe, comfortable and convenient transport services to the people of Western Sydney.

Central to the Government's transport program for Western Sydney is the reduction of pollution and improving the environment by getting people out of their cars and on to public transport.

A significant initiative to commence in 1998-99, is the 20 kilometre **Liverpool-Parramatta Transitway**. This **\$100 million project** will connect Parramatta, which has become Sydney's second biggest central business district, and the fast-growing Liverpool area with an ultramodern express bus transit service. The first stage of the project between Liverpool Road North and Edensor Road, Bonnyrigg, will cost \$24 million over three years with **\$6.5 million** allocated for 1998-99.

The Transitway is expected to be completed by 2003. When completed it will provide significant cuts to travel time. It will mean a fast, reliable service between such places as Bonnyrigg Plaza, Fairfield Hospital, Liverpool central business district, Miller TAFE, Parramatta central business district, Prairiewood, Prestons industrial area, Stockland Town Centre, Wetherill Park TAFE and Yennora, Wetherill Park and Smithfield industrial areas. In addition, the buses will be powered by natural gas, to lessen the impact on the environment.

Apart from the Transitway, other works scheduled for 1998-99 include:

- **Liverpool Interchange and Station Upgrades** to increase the station's capacity, improved safety for commuters and provide easy access facilities for aged and disabled commuters. The total budget for the upgrade is **\$18.5 million over two years**. Construction commenced in February 1998 and will provide space for 22 buses as well as a separate set down/pick up area for cars and for the taxi rank to be moved closer to the station. For improved safety, eight closed circuit television cameras will be installed in the bus area and six in the set down/pick up area.
- **Richmond Line Upgrade** with an allocation of **\$13.1 million** for the completion of the Richmond Line Amplification which will deliver to the people of Western Sydney more frequent train services to the areas between Blacktown and Richmond. The total project cost is \$21.3 million.
- **Bankstown Station**, for which a total of **\$3.2 million** has been allocated, will commence in 1998-99. The upgrade will include the installation of easy access lifts, increased platform stairs amongst the proposed works. This work is to be completed by 1999-2000.
- **Lidcombe Shuttle**, at a total cost of **\$12 million** will provide a dedicated rail link from Lidcombe to Olympic Park Station. A new platform will also be built at Lidcombe Station for Olympic Park passengers. Construction of the new link will be completed by mid 1999. Once complete, CityRail will provide regular services to Olympic Park Station, especially during special events, without inconveniencing regular peak hour commuters.

- **East Hills Line Amplification** for which stage two will commence in 1998-99. Rail Access Corporation (RAC) will undertake the East Hills Line amplification at a total cost of \$84 million over five years. As stage one of this project nears completion at a total cost of \$50 million, RAC will commence the duplication of the East Hills line between Turrella and Kingsgrove. This will allow for an increased number of trains and express services for commuters in South Western Sydney.

Western Sydney will also benefit from the conclusion of the Government's four year \$170 million **Public Transport Infrastructure Improvement Program**, which has enabled the upgrading and improvement of commuter carparks, interchanges, bus priority lanes and railway level crossings. \$50 million will be provided across the State under the program in 1998-99.

A total of 33 stations have been proposed as **Easy Access stations** throughout the CityRail network. These stations will be upgraded to make it easier for people with mobility problems to move around. Sixteen stations have been completed to date. A total of \$18.6 million is allocated to this program in 1998-99 and will include the completion of easy access facilities at Springwood and Bankstown. The Easy Access Program is scheduled for completion in 2002-03 and will total \$86.5 million.

The State Rail Authority will commence a \$55 million **security upgrade of CityRail stations** in 1998-99 to be completed in 1999-2000. This will involve the installation of closed circuit television, high intensity security lighting, long line public announcement facilities and emergency help points at every CityRail station. It will include provision of security facilities in commuter carparks and interchanges. This includes **every station in Western Sydney**.

From 1 July 1998, **security guards** will be posted on every CityRail train from 7pm until the service closes each night under a major State Government initiative to ensure the safety of rail passengers. This will mean that more than 100,000 passengers in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong who travel on up to 300 trips every night of the week should be safer on the trains. Safety of patrons is an important component in the Government's commitment to increase the use of public transport throughout New South Wales.

Up until now security guards have only been used to carry out patrols at identified 'hot spots'. The new initiative will have over 200 guards moving through every train checking the safety of passengers.

The Government is continuing to provide funding totalling \$171.5 million throughout the State for both the **Pensioner Excursion Ticket** and the **Pensioner Half Fare Concession**. Approximately \$29.5 million will be allocated to private operators of buses and ferries for the provision of half fare concessions for

pensioners. A significant amount of this funding will go to Western Sydney operators.

A total of \$142 million will be used to fund the **\$1 State Rail and State Transit Pensioner Excursion Ticket**. Under this scheme pensioners are provided with unlimited travel on all CityRail services and most State Transit Authority services on the day of the purchase.

Other **transport assistance programs** are outlined in section 2.2 of this Statement.

Roads and Traffic Authority

As part of the NSW Government's **Western Sydney Roads and Transport Program**, works to a value of more than **\$140 million** have been programmed in the region for 1998-99. These include a mix of major road and bridge construction projects, maintenance and rehabilitation works, road safety and traffic management works and public transport infrastructure projects.

Major construction projects under the program will be continued in 1998-99 with funds of **\$45.9 million** allocated. These projects include:

- completion of widening of the M4 between Penrith and Parramatta (**\$12 million**);
- widening to four lanes Castlereagh Road, Jane Street, and Andrews Road, Penrith (**\$10.8 million**);
- providing six lanes on a viaduct over the M4 Motorway at Granville (**\$7 million**);
- Hume Highway/Roberts Road interchange at Rookwood (**\$5.6 million**);
- widening of Elizabeth Drive East, Cabramatta Road to Cowpasture Road (**\$5.5 million**);
- extension of Stacey Street, Wattle Street to Rookwood Road, Bankstown (**\$5 million**).

1998-99 is the fourth year of the **Western Sydney Roads and Transport Program** in which the Government undertook to more than double expenditure on roads in the Western Sydney area.

The commitment represented expenditure of **\$580 million** on **road projects and road related public transport infrastructure over the four years**. The Program proposed for 1998-99 will result in a total expenditure well in excess of the four-year commitment with total expenditure expected to be in the order of **\$610 million**.

The Government is currently finalising the tender for the **M5 East** which will connect the current M5 motorway at Hurstville with General Holmes Drive. This will provide a major freight link for businesses in Western and South Western Sydney to the ports and the Airport. It will also move heavy vehicle traffic from the surrounding residential streets. The Government has allocated \$130 million in 1998-99 for this project.

Fair Trading and consumer protection

The Government is aware of the need to provide support to tenants in Western Sydney and will provide **\$1.35 million in funding for the Residential Tenancies Tribunal** in Western Sydney in 1998-99. Of the 35,000 submissions to the Tribunal in 1997, 34 per cent were received from the Western Sydney region. The Tribunal currently hears such submissions in Campbelltown, Liverpool and Parramatta. Saturday hearings are available in Parramatta and Liverpool to provide a more convenient and flexible service for parties.

In June 1998, the Tribunal will regionalise its operations with the opening of a **satellite registry with hearing and conciliation rooms** in Penrith. Also in 1998, the Tribunal will lease and manage its own hearing and conciliation rooms at Blacktown (May/June), Campbelltown (July/August) and Parramatta (August/September).

The **Register of Encumbered Vehicles (REVs)** will spend **\$40,000** on an advertising campaign targeted specifically at young men and women to raise awareness about the service to prospective buyers, which provides information on unpaid debt on second hand vehicles.

Justice

The Government has allocated \$3.1 million to construct a **new Children's Court** at Campbelltown, along with restoration of the existing heritage district court at Campbelltown, with **\$2 million** to be spent in 1998-99. This supplements recent improvements in justice infrastructure at Westmead Coroner's Court, Penrith Court House and Cobham Children's Court.

The Government has implemented a pilot program to extend court sitting hours, including **night courts**, involving two locations in Western Sydney (Parramatta and Liverpool). The night courts will be used to determine small claim actions in the Local Courts. \$500,000 has been allocated to this program across the State.

The Aboriginal Women's Legal Resources Centre, located at Harris Park, will continue to be funded with **\$200,000** allocated in 1998-99. The first of its type to be funded by a State Government, the centre provides legal advice, representation, information, and referral services to Aboriginal women, and community education on legal issues relevant to Aboriginal women.

In 1998-99, the Government will continue the **Aboriginal Court Liaison Officer Program** at Blacktown Court. This involves provision of support and assistance to Aboriginal clients of Blacktown, Penrith and Cobham Local Courts. Costs associated with the Blacktown element of the program in 1998-99 is **\$32,000**.

The Program also provides an **outreach education service to community groups and schools**, aimed at increasing the knowledge of the role and functions of the courts amongst Aboriginal people.

Emergency Services

During 1998-99, six new **Greater Sydney Urban Fire Brigade Area stations** will be constructed at a capital cost of **\$8.4 million** with associated additional full year recurrent expenditure of **\$4.1 million**. These stations will be strategically located at Rosemeadow, Narellan, Cecil Hill, Prestons, Regentville and Eastern Creek to provide an improved fire and emergency service to the developing areas of North Western and South Western Sydney.

Since assuming office, the Government has been responsible for the allocation of \$261 million to the Rural Fire Fighting Fund for the purposes of improving the firefighting capabilities of the Rural Fire Service.

The 1998-99 total State allocation of \$66.5 million to the **Rural Fire Service** will enable the provision of **12 new tankers**, subsidies for six **brigade stations and other associated firefighting equipment**, in the Western Sydney area. Funding has also been provided for the 24 hour operation of the Rural Fire Service's **State Operations Centre** at Rosehill.

During 1998-99, the Regional Floodplain Management Study for the Hawkesbury-Nepean area will be commenced as part of the implementation of the **Hawkesbury-Nepean Floodplain Management Strategy**. Both the Study and the Strategy take into account new information obtained on local flood problems during studies conducted by the Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Management Advisory Committee.

In 1998-99, under the Strategy, funds will be provided as follows:

- **\$1 million** for partial completion of the Regional Floodplain Management Study;
- **\$3.5 million** for evacuation route upgrades;
- **\$850,000** for flood emergency planning; and
- **\$500,000** for a public awareness program.

Waterways Authority

The Waterways Authority is currently investigating potential sites for its proposed **Liverpool Office** which is expected to open in September 1998. The Liverpool project is the culmination of a **customer strategy** developed to deliver quality and timely service to the people of Western and South Western Sydney.

The Authority has recently prepared a package of initiatives to assist the boating public, including pensioner rebates on vessel registration. One of the most significant strategies in the package is to **increase patrol resources** in regional New South Wales, including rivers in Western Sydney. The implementation of this strategy at a cost of \$450,000 in 1998-99, demonstrates the Government's commitment to provide greater service and safe boating to the community at large.

2.4 PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Economic development and population growth have profound effects upon the quality of life of our community. They need to be managed in an informed and responsible way to ensure that such development does not come at the cost of environmental damage. Clean air, flourishing waterways and natural environments are valuable assets to the New South Wales community in their own right.

Between the demands of a growing urban population, an expanding economy and the natural environment of New South Wales lies Western Sydney. As a major centre for urban and industrial growth in the State, the region is a major environmental focus of the Government, aware that growth in Western Sydney must be balanced against the need to sustain and enhance the environment.

The Government will continue to implement its **Air Quality Management Plan** for New South Wales, to provide protection of air quality through a comprehensive management plan. The plan will provide strategies for air pollution control over the next 25 years with the aim of reducing photochemical smog and fine particle pollution for the long term benefit of the whole community.

In 1998-99, the **Air Quality Monitoring Program** will be provided with \$1.04 million in capital funding and \$440,000 recurrent funding. An **Air Toxic Study** will also be undertaken in 1998-99 across Sydney and in major regional centres at a cost of \$360,000. Approximately 40 per cent of this expenditure relates to Western Sydney.

The Air Quality Management Plan is being developed in conjunction with the Greater Western Sydney Public Transport Plan. One of the major objectives which is shared by the Air and Transport Plans is to reduce the reliance on private cars in Western Sydney by introducing major improvements to public transport systems in the region. The resulting improvements in air quality in Western Sydney are expected to be substantial.

The Sustainable Energy Development Authority's (SEDA) **Energy Smart Homes Program** provides local councils with a model energy efficient building policy which is voluntarily adopted within local councils' jurisdictions. The councils of Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith, Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly are currently participating in the program. SEDA will spend around \$150,000 implementing the program's first phase in the region, providing lifetime **savings** of an estimated \$275 million in energy bills and 2.7 Megatonnes of greenhouse gases.

The **Energy Smart Government Program** reduces the energy consumption of Government buildings. Education, corrective services, police and health sector facilities in Western Sydney are participating in the program. Capital investment associated with the program in the region currently totals **\$3.3 million**, providing estimated **savings of \$843,000** in energy costs and reductions of 11,872 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually. Major facilities involved include the Children's Hospital at Westmead, the Nepean Hospital, The Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital and the Springwood Hospital.

The **Energy Smart Business Program** assists companies to identify profitable energy efficiency improvements, lowering operating costs, improving the quality of energy-derived services, and reducing greenhouse emissions. The Penrith Panthers Rugby League Club, the biggest club in New South Wales with an energy bill of around \$1 million per year, is an inaugural partner in the program.

A major environmental initiative, delivered by this Government in Western Sydney since 1995, is the establishment of a regional parks network. These parks provide essential areas to help maintain biodiversity. They provide habitat for native flora and fauna as well as recreation facilities. These significant new parks are also a key part of the Government's strategy to enhance the quality of life of residents in Western Sydney.

Regional parks provide the green open space essential to equip the region with the environmental amenities required for continuing population growth and economic development. In addition, the community will have a say in the management of the parks through participation in the planning and design process for the parks. There is also a direct economic benefit for local communities, particularly in terms of employment.

The Government will commit an estimated **\$5 million** in 1998-99, to **Regional Parks, National Parks** and **Nature Reserves** for the people of Western Sydney.

- **Western Sydney Regional Park** (Horsley Park) is a priority for the Government with **\$1.8 million** allocated in 1998-99 for the establishment of additional facilities including picnic areas, children's playgrounds, pedestrian and cycle tracks, walking tracks, and horse riding trails.
- **Parramatta Park** will have a major Capital Works Program of **\$1.3 million** which will deliver greatly enhanced environmental quality and community facilities. Priorities include waterway management involving weed and litter removal, major road and path upgrading, and a major new visitor and interpretation centre.
- **Rouse Hill, Leacock** (Casula) and **Parramatta River Regional Parks** are allocated **\$700,000, \$270,000** and **\$477,000** respectively to improve visitor facilities.
- Two other new reserves in the region with funds allocated in 1998-99 are the **Scheyville National Park (\$390,000)** and **Castlereagh Nature Reserve (\$160,000)**.

Bicentennial Park which has 750,000 annual visitors, has received **\$2 million** in 1998-99 to upgrade the pedestrian and cycleway access corridor through the Park from Concord West Railway Station to Sydney Olympic Park. This will improve safety and provide access for the disabled before, during and after the 2000 Olympics.

Funding of **\$20,000** in 1998-99 has been allocated to establish a **comprehensive information and education program for ethnic communities**, focusing on providing national park visitor information, fostering appreciation for the State's natural and cultural heritage, and addressing specific community issues.

Mt Annan Botanic Garden has been allocated **\$200,000** for new visitor facilities and a further **\$200,000** to improve roads, paths and retaining walls for visitor comfort and safety.

The Government will spend up to **\$30 million** in Western Sydney under the **Sydney Region Development Fund** in 1998-99. A number of initiatives will be implemented to provide regional open space, arterial roads and special uses (the University of Western Sydney) to improve the quality of life in Western Sydney.

Two major parcels of land are proposed for acquisition - 47 hectares at Cecil Park - a major outstanding acquisition for the **Western Sydney Regional Park**, and 307 hectares at Doonside acquired from Telstra as a major addition to the

Eastern Creek open space corridor. Together these sites are significant additions to the Western Sydney open space corridors.

Other planning initiatives under the Sydney Region Development Fund in 1998-99 include:

- **\$450,000** for the **Metropolitan Greenspace Program** to local councils in Western Sydney, including Auburn, Parramatta, Holroyd, Blacktown, Liverpool, the Blue Mountains and Penrith;
- **\$648,000** under the **Bushcare Program** to improve open space through revegetation and improved land use practices, yielding recreational and environmental outcomes. This is an ongoing program with a commitment of \$2 million over the next three years to achieve significant land conservation works to revitalise land stressed by previous years of overuse.

The Government is providing funds totalling **\$250,000**, matched by Parramatta City Council, for the preparation of a **Regional Environmental Plan (REP) and action plan for Parramatta**. The Plan will have as its main elements the development of Parramatta as one of the major centres identified in the Metropolitan Strategy, better land based access to the Homebush area, better access to the Parramatta central business district, the development and protection of Parramatta's heritage assets and urban design improvements.

The Government continues its commitment to reducing waste in New South Wales by 60 per cent between now and the Year 2000. A total of **\$3.1 million** has been allocated to **Western Sydney Waste Board** and the **Macarthur Waste Board** to help with the implementation of waste plans.

The Department of Local Government and the Roads and Traffic Authority will also continue the **Blue Mountains Urban Run-Off Control Program** at a cost of **\$5 million** in 1998-99. The program, which has been developed and implemented since April 1996 at a cost of \$5 million per annum, is directed at the primary environmental concerns in the Blue Mountains area caused by urban run-off, including soil erosion, siltation, seed disbursement and pollution of water courses.

3. OLYMPICS BUDGET - WESTERN SYDNEY

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

The Olympic construction program has already created thousands of construction jobs for workers in Sydney's West. Almost 7,900 on-site jobs have been, or will be created in venue construction in Western Sydney and Homebush Bay, with approximately double this number also employed off-site in associated works.

The Olympic stadium alone employed 1,600 workers and supervisors on site and an additional 3,200 off-site at the peak of construction activity in 1997. The Olympic Village will employ approximately 1,200 workers on-site and 2,400 off site.

When the construction program is complete, these facilities will provide thousands of long term service, venue management and administration jobs as the venues become operational.

The main venue for the Olympics and Paralympics will be at Homebush Bay Olympic Park, located on the doorstep of Western Sydney in the geographical centre of Sydney.

Homebush Bay is already operational, with visitors and Sydney-siders attending events at the home of the Royal Easter Show, the Sydney Showground, and the Sydney International Aquatic and Athletic Centres.

The site has been designed with public transport in mind. Homebush Bay is accessible via the new rail loop to Olympic Park Station. Regular bus services to Parramatta (as well as Strathfield and Lidcombe) serve the site and ferry services are also available.

The 1998 Easter Show at Homebush Bay demonstrated the New South Wales Government's progress on Olympic construction and the effectiveness of public transport links to the site. During the Easter Show, more than 1.3 million people visited the site, with almost 1.2 million by public transport.

In addition to the facilities at Homebush Bay, the Government is contributing approximately \$220 million towards the construction of Olympic and Paralympic sporting venues, as well as the Media and Technical Officials' village, at various locations in Western Sydney.

These facilities are being designed with a view to ensuring that the people of Western Sydney benefit from a sporting and recreational legacy long after the Games are finished.

WESTERN SYDNEY VENUES

Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park

This \$37 million facility within the Western Sydney Regional Park at **Horsley Park** will provide a permanent legacy for sport within a regional parkland. A further \$6 million will be spent on parkland improvements to enhance the overall legacy for the people of Western Sydney.

The Centre will include a combined show-jumping and dressage arena with a 2,000 seat permanent grandstand, an Olympic cross-country course, indoor arena, endurance, steeplechase and galloping tracks, as well as stables, training facilities and spectator amenities. A community picnic facility has also been established. Work is due to be completed in September 1999.

Shooting Centre, Cecil Park

The \$30 million Shooting Centre will incorporate 10 metre, 25 metre and 50 metre ranges, a 10 metre moving target range, three trap and skeet layouts, covered spectator facilities and support facilities. Construction commenced in March 1998 and will be completed in September 1999. The Centre will leave a legacy for the sport of shooting in New South Wales as a venue for local, national and international competitions.

Softball Centre, Aquilina Reserve, Blacktown

The \$11 million Softball Centre will comprise a main competition diamond with support facilities and permanent seating for 1,000. The Centre will provide a permanent legacy for Western Sydney and become the headquarters of the NSW Softball Association. Construction is scheduled to be completed in late 1999.

Cycling Velodrome, Bankstown

The \$41 million "Dunc Gray Velodrome" will comprise a 250 metre indoor banked wooden track with permanent seating for 3,000 and additional seating during the Olympics. The facility will also be used for concerts and other indoor sports such as volleyball and basketball after the Olympics. Construction is due to be completed in September 1999.

Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith Lakes

The Centre has been operational since March 1996 and comprises a 2.3 kilometre long competition lake, warm-up lake, finishing and starting towers, huts and pontoons, service roads and landscaped foreshore. Stage 3 of the Regatta Centre, including a 1,000 seat spectator pavilion and two boatsheds, was officially opened on 3 January 1998. The \$36 million Regatta Centre is a world class

international competition venue for rowing and canoeing. The Regatta Centre has hosted the national rowing titles, and various other rowing events.

The Regatta Centre forms a major component of the Penrith Lakes Scheme, recreational area including a number of large lakes near the Nepean River. The rehabilitation of the site, which was formerly a quarry, has involved the planting of 18,000 native trees and shrubs. It is a major recreational area for the people of Penrith and the region.

Slalom Canoe, Penrith Lakes

A separate Slalom Canoe course is to be constructed at Penrith Lakes, at the north-east corner of the Regatta Centre warm-up lake. The total cost of the Slalom Canoe project is \$6.5 million of which Government is contributing \$3.5 million. The course will consist of a 320 metre concrete lined channel, with earth banks for spectators. The facility will be operated by the Penrith City Council after the Olympic Games, for elite competitors and recreational use by the community. Completion is due in December 1998.

Media and Technical Officials Village

The Media Village will be located at Lidcombe and will accommodate 6,000 international media representatives during the Olympics. The 50 hectare site is located 4 kilometres from Homebush Bay. The construction and refurbishment program began in March 1998 and will be completed by mid 2000.

The Technical Officials' Village will house 1,300 technical officials and is to be located at the Westbridge Centre.

The villages are being constructed at a cost of \$103 million, of which the Government will contribute \$62 million with the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) contributing \$41 million.

Homebush Bay

In addition to the Olympics and Paralympic facilities located in Western Sydney, world-class sporting, events and recreation facilities are being developed at Homebush Bay on the door step of Western Sydney. These facilities will be easily accessible to the people of Western Sydney by public transport.

Some of these world-class facilities are outlined below.

- **Sydney Showground** is a 30 hectare site which contains an Exhibition Complex, Main Arena/Baseball Stadium, a series of large pavilions and an Indoor Sports Centre. The Royal Easter Show, held at the Showground in April 1998, confirmed that the site is easily accessible for people in Western Sydney using public transport.

- The **Olympic Stadium** will be a major sporting and entertainment venue, with seating for 110,000 people during the Olympics and 80,000 people after the Games. The Stadium is estimated to cost \$690 million, including a Government contribution of \$122 million. The stadium is due to be completed in June 1999. After the Olympics, the Stadium will be used for all football codes and also for major concerts.
- **Sydney International Aquatic Centre** comprises four pools and is fully enclosed. More than 4.5 million people have visited the Centre since it opened in 1994. The Centre currently can seat 4,400, but this will be expanded to more than 12,000 for the Olympics.
- **Millennium Parklands** comprises 450 hectares and will connect with the existing Bicentennial Park to become one of Sydney's largest metropolitan parklands. The park area will be connected to a regional network of cycle routes and footpaths to Parramatta and elsewhere. The first stage of the Parklands will be completed prior to the Olympic Games at a cost of \$22.5 million.
- Other world-class facilities being developed at Homebush include:
 - ⇒ the **Multi-Use Arena**, which in concert mode will provide seating for up to 20,000 people making it Australia's largest indoor sports and entertainment centre;
 - ⇒ the **Athletes' Village** which will house approximately 15,300 athletes and team officials during the Games and after the Games be part of the new suburb of Newington, the world's largest solar powered suburb;
 - ⇒ the **Archery Centre** which is a \$3 million complex to be completed in June 1998;
 - ⇒ the **Sydney International Athletic Centre** which successfully hosted the 1996 World Junior Athletic Championships, and is regularly used by schools, Little Athletics and other interested groups;
 - ⇒ the **Hockey Centre** which is an upgrading of the existing State Hockey Centre;
 - ⇒ the **Tennis Centre** comprising 16 courts for the Olympics.

The **Olympic Park Railway Station and Rail Loop** provides public transport rail access to Homebush Bay, and currently has regular weekday and weekend services with additional services provided for major events; and the **Ferry Wharf** to Homebush Bay is also operational. Transport infrastructure within the site (internal roads, bus ways, footpaths, cycleways, car parks and landscaping) is expected to be completed by July 1999.

4. APPENDIX 1

EXPENDITURE IN WESTERN SYDNEY 1995-96 to 1997-98

It is intended that the Western Sydney Budget Statement will be a planning tool for assessing funding and service delivery priorities in Western Sydney in the future.

Reporting on outcomes from the previous year's budget commitments has been an important feature of other Budget Statements produced by the Government. The Social Justice Budget Statement, for example, contains a section which describes the initiatives from the previous year's budget and identifies the outcomes achieved during the same period. As this is the first year the Western Sydney Budget Statement has been produced, it is not possible to account to the people of the region in the same way.

It should be noted, however, that for the past three years the Government has made Western Sydney a priority. Significant expenditure has occurred since 1995 to address backlogs in infrastructure and deliver services to improve the outlook for the region in the immediate and long term. Some of the expenditure and programs are outlined below.

1. Encouraging Investment and Jobs

The Government has acted to encourage the private sector to invest and create jobs in Western Sydney, and to assist people in the workforce develop the skills necessary to take up employment opportunities. The State Government also makes a significant contribution to the Western Sydney economy through its agencies and Government Trading Enterprises. Initiatives include the following:

- The establishment of the Greater Western Sydney Investment Centre in Parramatta (1997) to attract investment and employment opportunities to Greater Western Sydney in identified growth areas including medical, health and scientific industries, information technology and communications, manufacturing, tourism, recreation, environment management and financial and business services. The Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board has facilitated more than \$550 million in investment and creation of more than 700 jobs.
- The Western Sydney Tourism Strategy provides the framework for the development of tourism across the State. In Western Sydney, the Greater Western Sydney Regional Tourism Organisation determines the development of tourism opportunities in the region.

- The restructure of NSW TAFE has resulted in the creation of 1,250 additional TAFE places in Western Sydney in the areas of highest demand including Tourism/Hospitality and Information Technology, as well as Business Services, Building and Construction and Arts Studies.
- The commencement of the Blue Mountains College of TAFE at Wentworth Falls (1996) at a cost of \$12.654 million, has provided facilities including training for Tourism and Hospitality, Business Services, Personal and Community Services, Pre-Vocational Programs, Information Technology and Foundation Studies.
- The commencement of Werrington College of TAFE (now part of Nepean College) at a cost of \$11.863 million (1996). This has enabled the consolidation of Fine Arts, the introduction of Graphic Design and Commercial Photography, and the expansion of opportunities for Business Services. The buildings also provide much needed accommodation for the Business Development Unit and the Staff Learning and Development Centre for the Institute.
- The opening of Richmond College of TAFE Stage 2 (1996). The \$3.6 million project provides a library, Adult Basic Education facilities, computer rooms, classrooms and a Business Access Centre.
- The on-going development of Nirimba College of TAFE at a cost of \$9.22 million. Facilities include training for Business Services, Logistics, Purchasing and Warehousing, Foundation Studies, Information Technology, Carpentry and Joinery, Scaffolding, Child Studies, Welfare and Music.

2. Supporting Families and Communities

The Government has made a significant contribution to services which support families and communities in Western Sydney.

- The development of hospitals and health services in Western Sydney include:
 - ⇒ major redevelopment of Liverpool Hospital at a cost of \$200 million, including an increase in staff employed at Liverpool from 1,700 in 1995-96 to 2,328 in 1997-98 and a reciprocal increase in the budget for Liverpool Hospital from \$135m in 1995/96 to \$185m in 1997/98. The redevelopment of the Hospital has resulted in an increase in the number of admissions to Liverpool from 34,000 in 1994/95 to 41,000 in 1996/97;
 - ⇒ redevelopment of Blacktown and Mount Drutt Hospitals including a new 16 bed Palliative Care Unit constructed in the grounds of Mt Drutt Hospital (1998), a new Oncology Clinic built on the Blacktown site which commenced operation in 1997 and redevelopment of the Mount Drutt Health Centre completed 1997;

- ⇒ extensive redevelopment of Nepean Hospital including the establishment of a Pain Management Service (1996) and a Cancer Centre (\$11.2 million);
 - ⇒ the commitment of the Government to implement preventative health strategies resulted in an increase in cervical and breast cancer screening services in Western Sydney from 17,350 in 1995-96 to 20,149 in 1997-98;
 - ⇒ redevelopment of Bankstown/Lidcombe Hospital which was opened in 1997 at a cost of \$76.8 million;
 - ⇒ establishment of the new Braeside Hospital at Fairfield including a new 72 bed rehabilitation, palliative care and psycho-geriatric services which was built at a capital cost of \$10.1 million, and which is funded by a recurrent budget of \$9.6 million per annum.
- The NSW Government has maintained its commitment to women in Western Sydney, particularly in the face of the cutbacks to Commonwealth funding. The NSW Government's Women's Grants Program distributed \$1 million to women's projects across New South Wales in 1997-98 (twice the size of the Commonwealth's National Program) and included funding for the Fairfield Multicultural and Family Planning Centre and the NSW Working Women's Centre at Parramatta.
 - The Government has also provided \$2.9 million in grants through the Western Sydney and the Macarthur Area Assistance Schemes (1997-98) for 89 social development projects covering services as diverse as:
 - ⇒ the Blue Mountains Community Resource Network (\$74,597) to assist residents with disabilities;
 - ⇒ Gillawarna Aboriginal Corporation (\$73,110) to assist Aboriginal people to access housing services;
 - ⇒ the Hawkesbury Community Transport Service (\$70,160) to expand their community transport services in the area;
 - ⇒ the Airds/Bradbury Neighbourhood Centre (\$53,855) to provide services and support for local residents;
 - ⇒ Wollondilly Shire Council (\$36,866) to establish disability access services for residents with disabilities;
 - ⇒ the Campbelltown Family Support Service (\$32,380) to meet the special needs of Arabic speaking families in Campbelltown.
 - The Government has continued to increase the number of dwellings available to assist low income households in Western Sydney to achieve affordable and secure housing. During 1995-96 to 1997-98, the Government spent over \$200 million on construction and purchase of additional dwellings in the region. Approximately \$160 million has been provided as public dwellings managed by the Department of Housing, and a further \$40 million provided for management by community housing associations. A key initiative of this Government has been to recognise the significant backlog of upgrading and maintenance work required for public housing left by the previous

Government. Over the three years, the Government has increased expenditure on the upgrading of public housing in the region to over \$25 million in 1997-98.

- The Premier's Department established the **Cabramatta Project** in 1997. The Project aims to improve the level of government services to Cabramatta by enhancing coordination between government agencies, and between government and the community and business sectors in the area. The Project also has the specific objective of reducing illicit drug use and its adverse impact on the Cabramatta community.

3. Better Government Services

The Government has acted to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its services to people in Western Sydney.

- The Office of Western Sydney, established by this Government, will be developing whole of government and regional approaches to economic development, social and environmental priorities in the region. The Office will play a major role in creating partnerships with Government agencies, regional business and community organisations.
- The Department of Education and Training has assisted children, young people and their families in Western Sydney through programs such as:
 - ⇒ implementation of the Government's Back to School Allowance at the beginning of 1998 at a cost of over \$17 million;
 - ⇒ establishment of the Government's Literacy Strategy at a cost of \$19 million for Western Sydney schools in 1997-98;
 - ⇒ creation of an additional 90 teaching positions in Western Sydney schools under the Reading Recovery Program over the past 3 years;
 - ⇒ creation of 37 additional Community Language Teacher positions in Western Sydney schools over the past 3 years;
 - ⇒ establishment of two new schools for students with severe behavioural problems at Plumpton and Menangle at a capital cost of \$1 million in 1997-98 and recurrent cost of \$1 million per annum.
- Initiatives recently undertaken to improve transport in Western Sydney include the commencement of \$18.5 million worth of improvements to the Liverpool Bus/Rail Interchange and upgrading of Liverpool Station, improvements to the Blacktown Bus/Rail Interchange (1996) and to Cabramatta Station to improve passenger safety (1997). Major road initiatives include improvements to the Great Western Highway and upgrades of Sunnyholt Road, Windsor Road, Mulgoa Road, the Northern Road and Stacey Street, Bankstown.

- The NSW Government recognised the need for strategic management of information technology and established the Office of Information Technology in December 1997. Particular initiatives in information technology are:
 - ⇒ the Government's homepage ServiceNSW (<http://www.nsw.gov.au>), relaunched in January 1998, which offers the people of Western Sydney access to over 120 government agencies and 250 different services; the homepage and user-friendly search engine also allows for publications to be downloaded, NSW Government services to be located, and provides opportunity for feedback to the Government;
 - ⇒ the use of information technology in educational institutions has been greatly supported with 16,300 computer systems in Western Sydney schools having access to the Internet at a cost of over \$27.7 million.

- The Government has put in place programs to direct young and minor offenders away from the court system and towards alternative community based programs, including Youth Justice Conferencing in Western Sydney (1998) located at Blacktown, Campbelltown, Werrington and Fairfield, and the Ja-Biah Bail Support Service in association with the Mundarra Aboriginal Youth Service (1997).

- The Government has made a number of substantial improvements to corrective services facilities in Western Sydney including Jacaranda Cottages (1995), Parramatta Transitional Centre (1996), and the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre located at Silverwater (1997).

- Almost \$1.7 million in Capital Assistance Funding Grants over 3 years has been provided to Western Sydney for the development of sporting facilities in the region. The Regional Sports Facilities Program which was established in 1996-97 funded Western Sydney organisations in 1997-98 including Liverpool City Council (\$147,000) for a BMX-roller blade facility, Penrith Sports Stadium (\$150,000) to upgrade its amenities, and Blaxland High School (\$150,000), Parramatta City Council (\$150,000), Camden and District Netball (\$70,000) and Blue Mountains City Council (\$100,000). In addition, the Western Sydney Academy of Sport at Parramatta was established in November 1995, and the South West Academy of Sport at Liverpool in 1997.

- 2,500 Government homes in the Blacktown area were upgraded in 1997 under the Sustainable Energy Development Authority's (SEDA) Community Housing Energy Program. The program aims to reduce the energy and water bills of low income tenants, improve the comfort of homes, with the end result of reducing energy and water consumption and the production of greenhouse gases. The total project cost is estimated at \$620,000, with average water and energy savings estimated at \$130 per house per year.

4. Protecting the Environment

- A major environment initiative which has been delivered in Western Sydney in recent years is the establishment of Regional Parks. These Parks provide areas which help to maintain bio-diversity and provide areas for passive recreation. These include Rouse Hill Regional Park, Leacock Regional Park (Casula), Parramatta Regional Park, and the Western Sydney Regional Park (Horsley Park), which, when fully established, will occupy 1,000 hectares, providing habitat for native flora and fauna as well as picnic areas, children's playgrounds, pedestrian and cycle tracks, tracks for long distance walkers, horse riding trails and ponds.
- In addition to the Regional Parks, the Government is protecting the environment through the following:
 - ⇒ extensive redevelopment and maintenance of National Parks in the Blue Mountains Area, including \$125,000 for major conservation works at the Hartley Historic site, \$250,000 for upgrades to walking tracks within the Park, and \$160,000 for maintenance and upgrade of public access and fire trails within the Blue Mountains and Wollemi National Parks;
 - ⇒ the establishment of Regional Waste Planning and Management Boards in 1996 to coordinate and integrate the waste management activities of member councils within each region. Over the past 12 months, each Waste Board has developed a draft regional waste plan which provides a strategic blueprint for the reduction of waste up to the year 2000. Funding to the Waste Boards covering Western Sydney for the three years to June 1998 is more than \$6 million.
- The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust works with Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies and the community to deliver a healthy, productive and diverse Hawkesbury-Nepean river system and catchment. In 1996-97, the NSW Government provided \$3.58 million in grants to the Trust to assist it protect and restore this river system.
- NSW Fisheries has, over the past three years, undertaken a number of initiatives to ensure the long term viability of fisheries in the region including the redevelopment of the Liverpool Weir (1997) at a cost of \$800,000, and the redevelopment of the Theresa Park Weir on the Nepean River near Camden at a cost of \$135,000.
- The NSW Government's Stormwater Trust funded almost \$4.5 million to councils in Sydney's West to develop innovative storm water projects and technologies to help clean up the region's rivers. Projects included Holroyd City Council (\$770,000) to trial a storm water filter system at Westmead, Penrith Council (\$505,000) to filter and recycle water entering Scope Creek, and Liverpool Council (\$370,000) to construct a wetland to treat storm water on the Georges River.

