In NSW jobs are being created, planning approvals sped up and red tape bottlenecks are being removed.

In the few months since the NSW Jobs Summit, the NSW Government has implemented more than 100 ideas raised by industry. Already we are seeing results:

— The Industry ‘Go To’ People that I appointed in April are working with the private sector to facilitate 32 potential projects, estimated to be worth $2.6 billion, that will support 3,500 construction jobs and 17,000 ongoing jobs;

— In the last three months NSW has attracted 125 private sector projects, investing over $820 million in NSW supporting over 2,900 jobs; and

— The planning system is speeding up with more than 153 projects receiving planning approval in the last three months, which will support over 6,300 construction jobs, over 2,900 operational jobs and over $4.4 billion of capital investment in NSW.

The NSW 2009–10 Budget has delivered further funding on job creation initiatives identified at the NSW Jobs Summit. Alongside the record four–year $62.9 billion investment in infrastructure, the NSW Government continues to invest in measures to support jobs and economic prosperity in NSW.

This document provides you with a summary of those new initiatives which form the Stage 2 Response to the NSW Jobs Summit and an update on progress being made against the initiatives I committed to in April.

On February 26 and 27, the NSW Government held the NSW Jobs Summit. The Summit brought together 250 key business and community leaders, major employers and education and training experts to recommend actions that Government and industry can take to support jobs.
Local Infrastructure Fund
Creating a ‘Building NSW Fund’ to target local infrastructure was a priority idea put forward at the NSW Jobs Summit by the Planning & Business Services Roundtable.

The NSW Government is providing $200 million in interest-free loans to NSW councils to fast-track local infrastructure projects which have been delayed in the past due to funding short-falls or other priorities.

This will offer an immediate economic stimulus, support jobs and new housing developments, and unlock council funds held for future new projects.

Faster Planning Approvals
NSW is speeding up planning approvals, driving investment and job creation and providing certainty for business. Since September 2008 the NSW Government has approved 341 major projects valued at $15.9 billion and supporting over 56,500 jobs.

The Government is further investing in the planning system by providing:
— $3 million a year through the Department of Planning to engage project managers to ensure efficient and timely delivery of major projects;
— $2.4 million through the Department of Planning in 2009–10 to help councils speed up development assessments and rezonings; and,
— $1.5 million a year through the Department of Planning to boost the supply of employment land.

Attracting Investment to NSW
NSW will help businesses to establish and grow through the $12 million Western Sydney Employment Fund and $7 million Regional NSW Employment Fund.

Assistance will be tied to the creation of jobs and aimed at small-medium enterprises establishing or expanding operations in Western Sydney and Regional NSW. Funding will be targeted to industry sector priorities identified by the Department of State and Regional Development.

For more information on regional assistance go to: www.business.nsw.gov.au/region

Hunter and Illawarra Advantage Funds
The Illawarra and Hunter Advantage Funds were created to help attract new industries and sustainable jobs to the Illawarra and Hunter regions. Funding is geared to securing investment unlikely to occur without some upfront assistance to overcome constraints to the project proceeding.

We have boosted the Illawarra and Hunter Advantage Funds by $3 million each to further attract jobs to the regions.

The focus of the new money is to attract and assist expansion of emerging green and smart industries to assist the ongoing transformation of these regions into cutting edge economies.
Community Building Partnership
Our Community Building Partnership provides $35 million for local infrastructure projects across NSW. The fund will partner with local community groups and sporting organisations to deliver small projects that improve community facilities while providing job opportunities for local tradespeople. $300,000 will be invested in each of the 93 NSW electoral districts, with an additional $100,000 for districts with higher unemployment.

Housing Construction Acceleration Plan
Our NSW Housing Construction Acceleration Plan will provide a 50 per cent cut to stamp duty per dwelling for all newly-constructed dwellings up to the value of $600,000 purchased in NSW from 1 July to 31 December 2009. This is a saving of up to $11,245 per dwelling for people buying property, including investors (but excluding first home buyers).

The Budget also extends the existing first home buyer supplement to 30 June 2010, which provides an additional $3,000 to first home buyers purchasing newly constructed dwellings.

Investing in Creative Industries
The Creative Industries Round Table asked the NSW Government to bring forward critical infrastructure and maintenance for cultural institutions and provide more support for the NSW film and television industries.

Major capital works funding in this year’s budget include:
— $4.9 million to the State Library of NSW to upgrade air-conditioning and IT systems;
— $2.5 million to the Powerhouse Museum for major building repairs in 2009–10, with a further $1.5 million budgeted for 2011–12; and
— $500,000 to the Historic Houses Trust of NSW for major maintenance works at Government House, Sydney.

The NSW Government has also provided an extra $5 million to Screen NSW to support local film production. This investment will anchor film production in NSW and continue to build on the capacity of NSW as a creative state.

Support for Retrenched Workers
The NSW Government is supporting retrenched workers by investing $6 million over two years to retrain workers who have lost their jobs to assist them to return to work. This program will offer retrenched workers training designed to meet the needs of specific job vacancies in their area.

The Skills for Reemployment program will offer:
—a designated client manager for businesses to help them coordinate access to training and support services for retrenched workers;
—skills assessment for retrenched workers to make sure they get recognition for the skills they already have—and to identify their skills gaps;
—training focused on giving workers the skills upgrade they need to secure available jobs, and
—a 1300 hotline so retrenched workers can get information about training courses linked to local jobs.
In the three months since the NSW Jobs Summit the NSW Government has implemented more than 100 ideas raised by industry.

Driving infrastructure
Over the next four years the Government is investing $62.9 billion in infrastructure, the largest program of any State Government in Australia. These investments will sustain an average of over 160,000 jobs every year. This financial year (2009–10) alone the NSW Government is investing $18 billion in job–sustaining infrastructure. That’s $2 million every hour of every day.

Delivering the Federal Government’s stimulus package
Working in partnership with the Australian Government, the State Government is delivering the single biggest school infrastructure program ever undertaken in NSW. This will support jobs and construction at every school across the State—both government and non–government—at more than 3,000 sites.

To date the Australian Government has approved nearly $2 billion in capital works spending at public schools through the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program. This represents approximately 70 per cent of spending under this program, and will support nearly 12,500 jobs.

NSW will receive $2 billion in Commonwealth grants for new social housing over the next two years. This will see the largest expansion of social housing in the state in a quarter of a century with 6,000 new units.

Green Jobs
The Government established a ‘Green Skills Taskforce’ to drive further work on green skills and green jobs. The Taskforce includes representatives from government, business, training agencies, unions, environmental advocates, academics and young people. The Taskforce will report at the end of July 2009.

The Board of Vocational Education and Training is providing $5 million for Green Skills Business Incentives to encourage small to medium businesses to take up green skills training and encourage training providers to promote their green training opportunities. Up to $1,000 will be available to each employee in eligible firms—assisting up to 5,000 individuals over two years. The program commenced on 1 July 2009. Training will be for small business and will focus on environmental management.

The four year $20 million Energy Efficiency Training for Trades and Professionals Program, part of the Government’s Energy Efficiency Strategy, is focussing on developing skills in the workforce to enhance energy efficiencies in industry and the general community. New training opportunities will commence from 1 January 2010, including subsidised vocational education and training, enhanced capability of the VET and higher education workforce, and partnerships with industry and universities.

Energy Savings Scheme—Legislation has been passed to establish an Energy Savings Scheme, to drive investment in energy efficiency. The Scheme commenced on 1 July and it will provide a secure framework to support the sustainable growth of innovative energy saving skills and jobs.

NSW the ‘Can Do’ State
The Government has assisted over 125 private sector projects to do business in NSW, investing over $820 million which will support over 2,900 jobs. These include:

— Silverton Wind Farm: $2 billion investment, 700 construction jobs, 120 operational jobs;
— Hunter Economic Zone: $68 m investment, 152 construction jobs, 85 operational jobs; and
— New Ikea Headquarters, Tempe: $120 m investment, 550 construction jobs, 600 operational jobs.
Industry ‘Go To’ People

Our Industry ‘Go To’ People are working on 32 projects, that if realised, are estimated by the proponents to be worth $2.6 billion, supporting 3,500 construction jobs and 17,000 ongoing jobs. These proposals include:

— A manufacturing facility located in the Newcastle region. Potential investment value of $150m with employment opportunities of 250 jobs during construction and 150 jobs ongoing. DSRD are assisting the proponent to ensure that all key stakeholders are involved to ensure that key approvals are obtained quickly.

— Construction of a new distribution centre in South West Sydney. Potential investment of $25m with employment opportunities of 200–300 jobs during construction and 1,000 jobs ongoing. The Department of Planning has appointed a case manager to handle any problems that may arise through the approvals process.

Attracting New Industries

Our new $70 million Major Investment Attraction Scheme is being used to attract large projects that would not otherwise come to the State. The incentive fund is for large footloose projects, providing financial assistance packages with a total value of at least $2 million per project, for a period typically of 3 to 5 years.

Examples of projects assisted include the successful Forgacs bid for the air warfare destroyer construction in Newcastle securing, over 200 jobs.

Independent Industry Advisors

Industry stressed the importance of direct engagement with Government to ensure an effective partnership with the business community.

The NSW Government has appointed industry experts:
— Steve Harker, CEO Morgan Stanley;
— David Gonski, Chancellor UNSW;
— Roger Corbett, Former CEO Woolworths and Director RBA;
— Tony Shepherd, Chairman Transfield Services.

The advisors have met with the Premier and are now providing independent advice to the Premier on:
— implementing the Government’s response to the NSW Jobs Summit;
— progressing issues managed by the Industry ‘Go To’ People, and
— identifying and resolving blockages in the evaluation and approvals process for projects that provide significant new employment.

Marketing of Sydney and NSW internationally

The Education, Tourism and Finance roundtables all called for improvements to the marketing and promotion of NSW by all Government departments and agencies and through better engagement with the private sector. We are actively promoting NSW both at home and abroad.

Overseas engagement is being strengthened. We are opening four international offices in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Abu Dhabi and Mumbai in 2009 to promote the State as a destination for investment, trade, tourism, education, events and as a source of world-class products and services.

The Department of State and Regional Development has led trade missions into significant markets, including: CityScape 2009 in Abu Dhabi in April; HOFEX 2009 in Hong Kong in May and Financial Services to Hong Kong, China and Singapore in June 2009.

The Minister for Water will lead a trade mission to Israel in November 2009. The mission will focus on water management, water technologies, energy efficiency, alternative energy, and sustainability. The mission will coincide with Israel’s International Water Conference, Watec–Israel.

Developing Australia’s Most Effective Planning System

Industry told the NSW Government that they want to see a planning system that facilitates fast decision making. We want to make sure that projects get off the ground quickly. Significant reforms to the Planning System are now underway:
— a team of Project Delivery Managers to speed up key investment projects commenced in April 2009;
— targets have been set for major projects to be fast tracked with 85% of major project approvals to be finalised within three months, 95% to be finalised within five months, and no major project assessment to exceed eight months. Performance data will be reported annually;
— an initial audit of all major projects to identify and respond to any delays was completed on 31 May and an audit report completed by the end of June;
— Joint Regional Planning Panels commenced on 1 July and provide an alternative determining authority to local councils for a range of developments;
— draft guidelines have been prepared to introduce significant changes to the rezoning process to introduce early gateways and decisions which will significantly streamline, simplify and speed up decisions;
— a Planning and Approvals Chief Executive Group has been established. The initial meeting was held on 24 March 2009, subsequent meetings were held in May and June, with a submission due in July.

The Government is also committing to:
— a major initiative to create a new employment zone in Western Sydney; and
— consideration of a rapid rezoning process for accessible centres to further streamline the planning process.
More Apprenticeships and Cadetships
The NSW Government is funding 4,000 apprenticeships and 2,000 cadetships within the public sector over the next four years, aligned to the major infrastructure projects being rolled out. To date 500 apprentices have been employed this year.

So far 74 cadetships have been advertised with appointments being from the end of July. A further 426 positions will be advertised in October 2009.

Updated Government Training Management Guidelines, released on 8 April, require firms with government contracts over $1 million to employ apprentices.

Training and re–skilling
The Government will provide 175,000 training opportunities over the next four years under the Productivity Places Program. Indicative allocations and priorities have been approved by the Board of Vocational Education and Training. Tenders opened on 10 June 2009.

The Government will also assist unemployed apprentices to find employers who can offer ongoing work through the Continuing Apprenticeships Placements Service (CAPS).

To date, 32 apprentices and trainees have been placed. Some 156 CAPS registered apprentices and trainees are job ready and 95 CAPS applications are pending. There are 72 employers registered with CAPS offering 127 jobs. All apprentices and trainees whose training contract is cancelled are given information about CAPS.

Cutting Red Tape
The NSW Government has listened to business and industry concerns about eliminating multiple Government approvals and speeding up the decision–making process.

The NSW Government is committed to reducing red tape for industry by $500 million by June 2011 through improvements to regulatory, planning and procurement processes. First progress on meeting the target will be reported in October 2009 as part of Better Regulation Office Annual Update.

A red tape review into the Entertainment Industry Act commenced in June 2009 and a review into Promoting Competition through the Planning System was announced on 8 May 2009.

Red tape reduction is now included as a condition in all CEO performance contracts. The CEOs will report biannually on achievements in cutting red tape over the past six months, and plans for red tape reduction over the next six months. Results will be published annually.

Improving Government Procurement

The State Contracts Control Board has also been reformed to make sure it has a greater industry focus. It will consider the best ways to streamline the procurement of goods and services. A review of construction procurement contracts is also underway.

Supporting Local Businesses
An additional $2.5 million has been allocated to the Industry Capability Network (ICN), an Australia and New Zealand wide network that provides comprehensive business matching services. ICN facilitates the local sourcing of products and services that might have otherwise been imported. The Government, along with the Regional Development Australia Boards, will use ICN as a key tool to build capacity in the regions.

We are putting NSW businesses first in the new state purchasing plan, ‘Local Jobs First’. More than 500,000 NSW small and medium–sized businesses will be given preferred treatment by the NSW Government under a benchmark purchasing policy announced in the NSW Budget. The NSW Government will require its agencies and State–Owned Corporations to give preferential treatment to Australian–made goods. Under the plan Government agencies and State–Owned Corporations will now be required to give preferential treatment to local manufacturers under a price preference mechanism. The price preference means locally–made content is discounted by 20% when compared to overseas–sourced material in tender evaluations.

Payroll Tax
The 2009–10 Budget implements the second stage of payroll tax relief to NSW businesses:
– payroll tax will be reduced from 5.75% to 5.65% from 1 January 2010;
– the rate will be further reduced to 5.5% from 1 January 2011; and
– the payroll tax threshold will be increased from $623,000 to $638,000 on 1 July 2009.

The full package of payroll tax changes since 2008–09 will save NSW businesses around $2.7 billion by the end of 2012–13. NSW is the only state that indexes the payroll tax threshold, ensuring the real value of the tax cuts is not lost through bracket creep.
Supporting Jobs in the Regions
We have held Regional Jobs Summits in the Illawarra and Hunter to identify location specific ways to support jobs and business. The NSW Government is considering the ideas generated at the Regional Summits and will provide formal responses by August.

Rapid Regional Response Teams have been established and will focus on the needs of employees, communities and suppliers impacted by major company closures in regional locations. Teams have been deployed to assist with closures and/or major retrenchments of Rockdale Beef in Leeton, DSI in Albury and Visiocorp in Taree.

Building the Country
The Building the Country Package is our $85 million five–year program to assist country businesses and communities. The package includes funding for local infrastructure, community broadband development, water adjustment, and support for local chambers of commerce, country halls and libraries.

Regional Marketing Campaigns
Since March we have undertaken 14 regional tourism campaigns to promote travel including:
— CountryLink packages to Dubbo and the North Coast;
— the Hunter Valley Short Breaks campaign;
— joint campaigns with Jetstar and Virgin Blue promoting the North Coast and the South Coast;
— the Snow NSW campaign; and
— an Easter School Holiday promotion of regional NSW destinations.

Tourism NSW, in partnership with Events NSW and Business Events Sydney launched a new $200,000 marketing campaign to promote conference and meeting facilities in regional NSW and Greater Western Sydney.

Tourism NSW have launched a campaign to encourage the NSW workforce to take holidays in NSW. The campaign aligns with Tourism NSW’s ‘short breaks’ campaign and the Federal Government’s No Leave No Life campaign. Holiday deals to NSW destinations are being promoted on visitnsw.com.au and the No Leave No Life websites.
### Sector Response to issues raised by the Industry Roundtables

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| Retail                        | ▪ Flexible provisions for locating retail premises will be considered as part of the review of the Metro Strategy.  
▪ The fee retailers pay to apply for an exemption to trade on public holidays has been abolished.  
▪ Guidelines which will streamline and simplify the trading hours regime have been published. |
| Finance and Insurance         | ▪ Initial funding of $100,000 to scope the establishment of an Institute of Advanced Finance in Sydney has been committed.  
▪ The Sydney Carbon Market Taskforce, made up of representatives from government and industry, has been established and is working with the Government to maximise the likelihood of the (Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme) CPRS regulator being located in Sydney. |
| Property and Business Services| ▪ Local Infrastructure Fund of up to $200 million in interest–free loans to NSW councils to fast-track local infrastructure projects.  
▪ The planning system is getting faster. Targets have been set for major projects to be fast tracked with 85% of major project approvals to be finalised within three months, 95% to be finalised within five months, and no major project assessment to exceed eight months. Performance data will be reported annually. |
| Tourism and Hospitality       | ▪ Conducted three International and 14 regional marketing campaigns.  
▪ AussieHost Support—$50,000 start-up funding has been provided to the AussieHost Customer Service Training Delivery program. |
| Information and Communication Technology | ▪ Five potential Government ICT projects have been identified to possibly bring forward to generate jobs.  
▪ Fast-tracking the full implementation of the Government Licensing System and the move of NSW Government agencies onto a Standard Corporate Services platform is being investigated.  
▪ A taskforce to develop an ICT Industry Action Plan and create a digital hub around the Australian Technology Park.  
▪ Sponsorship of CeBIT has been extended by 3 years to 2011. |
| Creative Industries           | ▪ A new package of screen industry incentives has been released to make NSW the most attractive destination in Australia for major film projects. The State recently secured the big budget production *Green Lantern*.  
▪ $5 million has been allocated to Screen NSW for their Production Investment Fund which supports the production of Australian screen projects in NSW. |
Manufacturing
- $3 million boosts to the Illawarra and Hunter Advantage Funds to attract jobs to the regions.
- Western Sydney Employment Fund ($4.4 million in 2009–10) and a Regional NSW Employment Fund ($2.6 million in 2009–10) to assist businesses to establish or expand.

Primary Industries
- The NSW Government has made a submission to the Commonwealth House of Representatives Inquiry into the role of government in assisting farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- A special assistance package of up to $10 million per year for two years to protect and increase export and employment opportunities in the Western and Gunnedah coalfields.

Transport, Logistics and Storage
- A Transport and Logistics Workforce Advisory Group to advise Government on ways to overcome the skills and training challenges facing the transport sector is being formed.
- NSW supported a proposed development of national regulators and harmonisation of regulation in the transport sector, including for heavy vehicles. The proposal was referred to COAG.

Infrastructure and Construction
- A Government group has been established to work with industry to clearly identify potential cost savings and issues with current procurement processes. It is expected to complete its work within three months.
- The NSW Housing Construction Acceleration Plan will provide a 50 per cent cut to stamp duty per dwelling for all newly-constructed dwellings up to the value of $600,000.

Health and Community Service
- Funding for 500 Clinical Support Officer positions to help free up senior nurses and doctors from administrative work has been approved.
- Country Careers Officers in four rural Area Health Services to support the recruitment of clinical staff have been approved.
- The Government is developing a five year plan for child and family service workforce development.

Green Skills
- $20 million over four years of extra training for clean energy services for trades and professionals will commence from 1 January 2010.
- $5 million of Green Skills Business Incentives will be delivered from the first of July 2009.
- Legislation has been passed to establish the Energy Savings Scheme.