



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUILDING THE STATE: INFRASTRUCTURE FAST-TRACKED TO UNLOCK HOUSING AND INVESTMENT LAND

The NSW Government has brought forward the construction of essential infrastructure to support the release of up to 19,000 housing blocks and the creation of around 10,000 jobs in North Western Sydney.

Projects fast-tracked include the upgrade of Richmond Road between Townson Road and Grange Avenue which has been brought forward by four years.

In addition, 7,000 housing lots will be on the market sooner due to fast-tracked sewerage connections at North Kellyville and First Ponds Creek.

This is part of the "Building the State" package which accelerates the release of up to 76,000 additional properties to significantly boost housing supply.

NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney Barry O'Farrell said work on the Richmond Road upgrade would start this year – rather than the planned start date of 2016/17.

Sewerage connections at the North Kellyville and First Ponds Creek have also been fast-tracked. Both connections were due to begin in 2016/17. They will now start next financial year.

"The NSW Government understands a strong building and construction industry is vital for a strong economy," Mr O'Farrell said.

"This is a significant investment in Western Sydney and demonstrates the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's commitment to improving infrastructure," he said.

Treasurer Mike Baird said the Building the State package provides \$481 million to fast-track critical infrastructure.

"Together with the most generous first home buyer scheme for new dwellings in the nation, this will also help get housing construction back on track," Mr Baird said.

"This targets incentives and ensures infrastructure matches growth."

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard said the upgrade of Richmond Road is critical to support the new housing and employment areas which are rapidly developing along Richmond Road.

“It is a crucial piece of supporting infrastructure for the Marsden Park employment area, which is already under construction and has the potential to accommodate 10,000 jobs,” Mr Hazzard said.

Minister for Roads Duncan Gay said the Richmond Road upgrade will provide essential road infrastructure to support the continued growth in housing and employment in the area.

“Richmond Road passes through the North West Growth Centre and forms the main north south corridor connecting the proposed industrial and residential developments around Marsden Park to the M7 Motorway,” he said.

“Richmond Road from Bells Creek, near the M7 Motorway, to Townson Road will be upgraded to a four lane divided road.

“Tenders for this section will be called later this year and work is expected to be completed in 2014.

“We have set aside \$20 million to call tenders and start work on the project in the 2012/2013 financial year,” Mr Gay said.

The project will feature upgraded intersections with traffic lights at Townson Road, and a further intersection to serve the Marsden Park/Colebee area, and will involve significant earthwork, drainage work, relocating utilities and new road surfaces.

Stage two of the Richmond Road upgrade to four lanes will be between Townson Road and Grange Avenue.

The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for this section has been completed and the project has been allocated funding in the 2012/13 State Budget under the government’s Housing Acceleration Fund.

The NSW Government will provide \$56 million over four years for the upgrade works, including \$5 million in the 2012/13 financial year, with work expected to be completed in 2015/16.

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