

Western Sydney Budget Statement

1999-2000



New South Wales

FOREWORD

The Carr Government has done more than any other to make sure Western Sydney gets its fair share. In 1999-2000, the New South Wales Government will spend a record of more than \$3.25 billion in the region.

This capital and recurrent funding will provide new and upgraded schools, new health facilities and services, and more public transport. The Budget will help businesses to invest and create jobs in the region, help families and communities, and improve the environment of Western Sydney.

Highlights of expenditure in the 1999-2000 Western Sydney Budget Statement include:

- ◆ \$1.5 billion for schools and TAFE
- ◆ \$1.1 billion for improved hospital and health services
- ◆ \$177 million for family, child and other support services
- ◆ \$160 million for new and upgraded roads
- ◆ \$116 million for new and improved public housing
- ◆ \$56 million to construct or upgrade sewer infrastructure
- ◆ \$56 million for regional Parks, Nature Reserves and open space initiatives
- ◆ \$34 million for other environmental protection initiatives, and
- ◆ \$26 million for the \$1.4 billion Parramatta to Chatswood Rail Link.

Western Sydney, with its 1.5 million people is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. Western Sydney produces \$35 billion of goods and services each year, making it Australia's largest regional economy outside Sydney and Melbourne. The State Government's 1999-2000 Budget will continue to build the economic, social and environmental infrastructure and services to help the development of this complex, diverse and important region.

I am delighted to present, on behalf of the Carr Government, the Western Sydney Budget Statement for 1999-2000. This Budget will make sure Western Sydney enters the new millennium as a stronger, fairer and even more dynamic region.

Kim Yeadon MP
Minister for Western Sydney
Member for Granville

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1:	Introduction	1
Chapter 2:	Minister for Western Sydney	3
Chapter 3:	Funding for Western Sydney 1999-2000	5
3.1.	Securing jobs and investment in Western Sydney	5
	Public Infrastructure	6
	State and Regional Development	9
	Tourism	9
	Skills development and resources	9
	Information Technology	9
	Agriculture	10
3.2.	Supporting families and communities	10
	Health	11
	Education and Training	13
	Women	14
	Services for children and families	15
	Services for older people and people with special needs	16
	Aboriginal People	18
	Housing	18
	Sport and Recreation	19
	Public Safety	19
	Corrective Services	20
	Supporting cultural diversity	20
	Arts	20
	Community Development	21
3.3.	Protecting the environment	21
	Clean Air and Clean Waterways	21
	Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Forests	23
	Heritage	24
	Waste Management	24
3.4.	Better Government services	24
	Premier's Department	25
	Transport	26
	Roads and Traffic Authority	26
	Fair Trading and consumer protection	26
	Justice	27
	Emergency Services	27
	Survey Services	27
	Waterways	27
	Industrial Relations	28
Chapter 4:	Olympics Budget – Western Sydney	29
Chapter 5:	Outcomes of 1998-99 Budget Initiatives	33

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

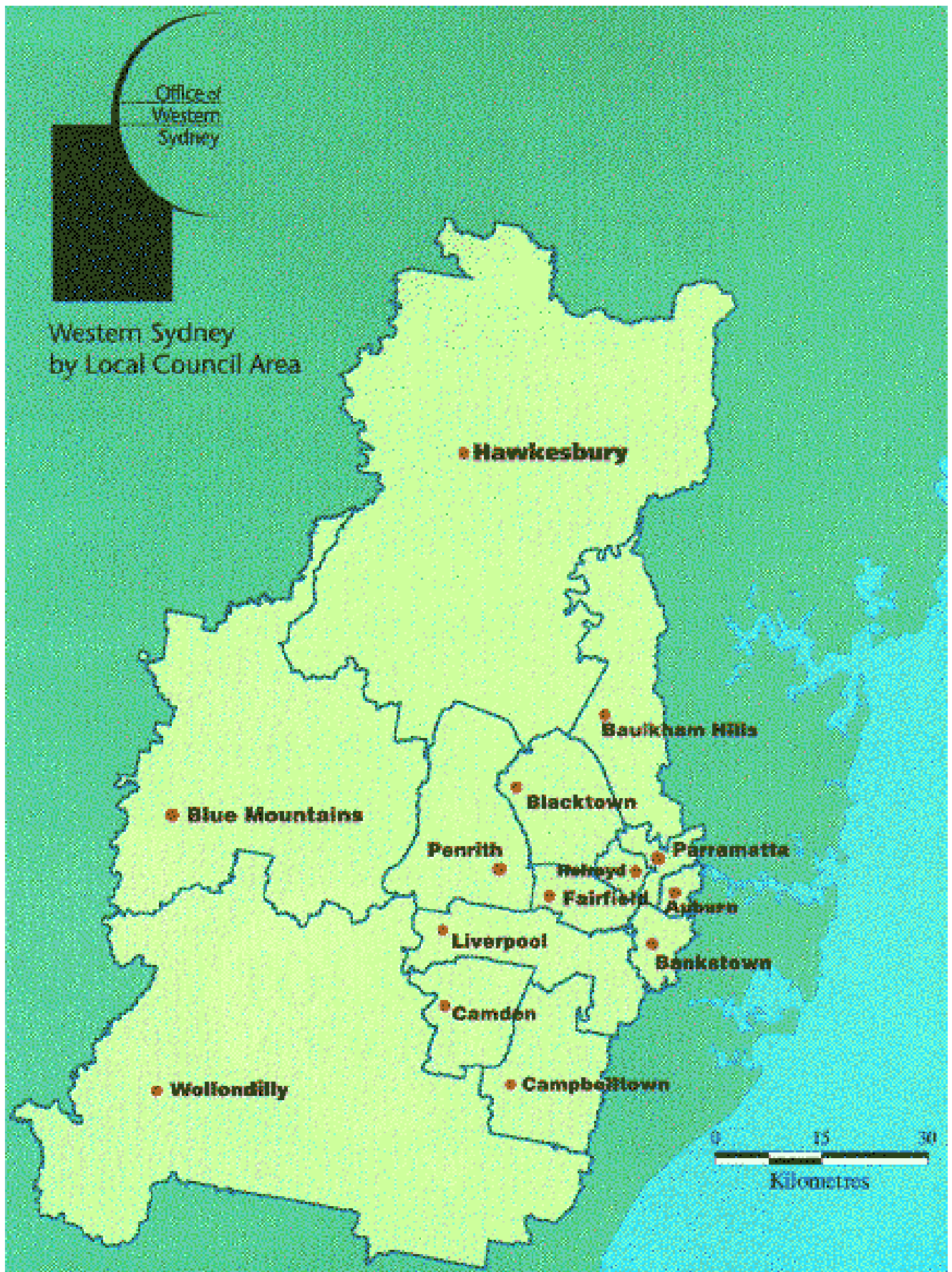
The New South Wales Government has a strong focus on Western Sydney. It has a strategic approach to policy and programs for the West and is working in partnership with business, industry, Local Government, the community and key regional groups to improve business and the quality of life for people living and working in this dynamic region.

In the Government's first four years, more than 111,000 new jobs were created in Western Sydney. It is estimated that private investment in the region will increase by approximately \$150 million in the five years from 1995 to 2000. There is record funding for hospitals, health centres and medical services. Western Sydney now receives approximately \$350 million more than was spent in 1995. The Government's fully funded integrated transport plan for Sydney, *Action for Transport 2010*, is transforming passenger and freight transport in Western Sydney. There are record numbers of young people in education and training in Western Sydney. TAFE enrolments have increased by 9,000 in the period from 1995 to 1998. Through partnerships between the police, the Government and the community, public safety has improved across the region. New housing, family support and community services have been provided. These include the Back to School Allowance; the establishment of the Office of Childcare to co-ordinate the delivery of the Government's growing services to children and families; and improved low cost land and affordable housing, such as the release of 700 hectares of Riverstone land and the spending of more than \$220 million to construct or buy additional houses for people on low incomes in Western Sydney. This Western Sydney Budget Statement builds on this solid foundation and delivers on its commitments to the people of Western Sydney.

Western Sydney covers 14 local government areas over some 8,000 square kilometres. It encompasses the local government areas of Bankstown, Auburn and Parramatta, to Wollondilly Shire in the south, Blue Mountains City Council in the west and north to the Hawkesbury Shire.

The Statement is not a description of every Government initiative which will impact on Western Sydney in 1999-2000, 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 Western Sydney in the coming financial year. Funding allocations specifically to be spent in Western Sydney are indicated in bold type.

The objectives of the Statement are to provide a picture of key Government programs in Western Sydney and to assist Government agencies and the people of Western Sydney to assess program and service priorities across the region.



CHAPTER 2: MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

The Government established specific Ministerial responsibility for Western Sydney in 1997. The Minister is supported by the Office of Western Sydney which was introduced in 1998 as the key agency to deliver strategic whole-of-government and whole-of-region initiatives and solutions to advance the interests of Western Sydney. The Government will fund the operations of the Office of Western Sydney to the extent of \$1 million in 1999-2000, an increase on the \$500,000 allocation in 1998-99. The Office is located on the Westmead Campus of the University of Western Sydney. In 1999, the Government will expand the Office of Western Sydney by establishing a centre in the Macarthur area, making it more accessible to people in south western Sydney.

The key roles of the Office of Western Sydney are to:

1. achieve significant improvements in the economic performance, social development and urban livability of Western Sydney;
2. provide strategic advice to Government on Western Sydney issues;
3. provide strategic leadership for the region; and
4. work with business, local government and other key organisations to secure jobs and investment; support families and communities; protect the environment; and deliver better government services.

Initiatives for 1999-2000 include:

◆ The Western Sydney Jobs Plan

- The Office of Western Sydney co-ordinates the implementation of the **Western Sydney Jobs Plan**. The plan aims to bring sustainable, quality jobs to the region by: creating partnerships with industry to stimulate investment and employment opportunities; assisting business by cutting red tape; delivering better urban planning and infrastructure; promoting innovation; and expanding education and training opportunities.
- The **Western Sydney Industry Awards** recognise excellence and innovation in Western Sydney industry in areas that are of strategic importance to the future of Western Sydney's economy: Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Innovation, Information Technology, Environmental Management, Business and Corporate Services, Export, Import Replacement, Agribusiness, Tourism and Young Entrepreneur of the Year. The 1999 Western Sydney Industry Awards Presentation Gala Dinner was hosted by the Minister for Western Sydney in the presence of the Premier on 19 March 1999 at the Blacktown Workers Club and was attended by 850 business people.
- **Corporate Partners for Change** links training and jobs. The initiative involves support from major industry and business associations. An essential part of the program is a commitment from industry to give Western Sydney young people jobs, traineeships, or apprenticeships following pre-vocational training.

- The *Western Sydney Regional Skills and Economic Development Committee* assesses industry skill requirements and shortages and develops initiatives to address regional needs.

◆ **Integration of Government Services**

- Another major issue is the need for Government services to be provided in the right place at the right time to people in need. Many Government agencies, for example, are developing an improved approach to case management. The Office will work across Government to assess the potential of information technology to improve case management in Western Sydney.

◆ **The Environment Strategy for Western Sydney**

- Working with the Environment Protection Authority and other organisations, the Office of Western Sydney is developing the Environment Strategy for Western Sydney. Goals of the strategy include improving the quality of life for families and communities in Western Sydney and protecting the region's natural heritage. The Strategy will focus on new environmental management technologies and community and industry partnerships. It will highlight the achievements and initiatives of government, industry, the community and research organisations. It will identify priorities and deliverables for State Government agencies and articulate the links between research, innovation and industrial application of new environmental management technologies and processes in Western Sydney industry and related economic development opportunities. It will facilitate innovative projects which will deliver a significant environmental return for the region. The Environment Strategy will complement Local Government initiatives in Western Sydney.

◆ **Other initiatives**

- These include: developing the NSW Government Response to the TeamWest Greater Western Sydney Regional Agenda; preparation of the 2000-2001 Western Sydney Budget Statement; Initiatives for Women in Western Sydney (a joint venture between the Office of Western Sydney and the Department for Women); the Western Sydney Arts Strategy (a joint strategy being developed by the Ministry for the Arts, the Office of Western Sydney and other relevant agencies); the Western Sydney Information Strategy; the development of the North West Sector Social Plan; and the development of the Greater Western Sydney Health Framework (in conjunction with the Western Sydney, South Western Sydney and Wentworth Area Health Services and the New Children's Hospital, Westmead).

CHAPTER 3: FUNDING FOR WESTERN SYDNEY FOR 1999-2000

The New South Wales Government 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;
- ◆ protecting the environment; and
- ◆ better Government services.

The initiatives outlined provide an indicative rather than a comprehensive list of all programs and expenditure which will impact on Western Sydney in 1999-2000.

3.1 SECURING JOBS AND INVESTMENT IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Western Sydney is one of the nation's economic powerhouses. It is home to more than 1.5 million people and 60,000 businesses that produce goods and services worth around \$35 billion annually. Its economy is made up of a diverse mix of industries, including firms in agriculture, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, tourism, retail/wholesale and finance/business services. Western Sydney is also home to firms in emerging industries such as bio-technology, multi-media and telecommunications, agricultural and medical research and development, education exports, energy, advanced manufacturing, high technology, waste management and agribusiness.

Since March 1995, employment growth has been strong through the generation of more than 111,000 new jobs. In February 1999, the latest available Australian Bureau of Statistics figures indicated that jobs were up 21 percent from 514,700 to more than 626,300. Western Sydney is continuing to grow quickly. The Department of Urban Affairs and Planning estimates that at least 120,000 full-time equivalent jobs will have to be generated over the next 20 years to meet the region's needs.

The Government's Western Sydney Jobs Plan is a whole of government approach to investment, infrastructure, innovation and training. The centrepiece of the new Plan is a Central Western Sydney Economic and Employment Zone which will fast-track development and create 15,000 jobs over the next 10 to 15 years. Some key initiatives of the Plan include:

- ◆ a State Environmental Planning Policy that rezones land for employment and economic development purposes in the local Government areas of Blacktown, Holroyd and Fairfield;
- ◆ youth employment training initiatives that strengthen links between vocational courses and industry needs; and

- ♦ implementation of the Parramatta Regional Environmental Plan to clarify planning and zoning requirements of the Parramatta central business district and help create up to 35,000 new jobs over 20 years.

The Jobs Plan also includes other major job-creating infrastructure projects. The 2000 Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games project will see a planned reduction in infrastructure spending as the construction phase nears completion. Additional jobs will be generated from the construction of new infrastructure including new railway lines, rapid bus only transitways, roads and cycle ways outlined in the Government's *Action for Transport 2010* integrated transport plan.

The Government is working in partnership 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. The Western Sydney Industry Awards, for example, are an outstanding example of state government-business collaboration. The Awards recognise excellence and innovation in Western Sydney enterprises and support business to invest, innovate and generate jobs in the region.

The NSW Government continues to directly assist employment through investment in major infrastructure and by locating State Government agencies in Western Sydney. Agencies with head offices in the region are the Department of Fair Trading, Landcom, the Office of State Revenue, the Heritage Office and the Home Care Service of NSW (Parramatta), the Department of Housing (Liverpool) and Integral Energy (Blacktown). The Government plans to relocate the Department of Sport and Recreation's Head Office and Sports House to Homebush Bay to consolidate the Olympic precinct as the 'home of sport' in New South Wales. In addition, up to 100 Sydney Water positions will be transferred to the new Sydney Catchment Authority's office in Penrith.

NSW Government agencies with local offices in Western Sydney to assist business in the region include the Department of State and Regional Development, WorkCover, TAFE, the Department of Industrial Relations and the Department of Transport.

Public Infrastructure

The Government actively encourages programs that draw on the strengths of Western Sydney as a catalyst for economic growth. The funding of **major new and ongoing capital infrastructure projects** by the Government, complemented by private sector investment, will create jobs in the region. An average of more than 3,000 jobs per year, over four years, will be generated in the construction sector by the Government investing \$12.1 billion on new infrastructure in Greater Sydney for new and upgraded roads and rail, schools, hospitals and police facilities, water and sewer infrastructure and community facilities. Full details on Government capital works can be found in Budget Paper No. 4. Major capital projects for agencies in 1999-2000 include:

Department of Corrective Services

\$65 million has been allocated for the development and maintenance of corrective services facilities in 1999-2000. Development approval has been received for the construction of an 80 bed Periodic Detention Centre at the Parklea Correctional Centre. Construction of a new Transport Unit at Silverwater to replace the outmoded facility at Parramatta is due for completion in August 2000. Projects starting in 1999-2000 include a Correctional Centre for Women at Windsor and the Parklea Remand Centre.

Department of Education and Training

More than **\$24 million** will be spent on **major new school education facilities**, including new schools at Currans Hill, Wattle Grove, Hoxton Park, Harrington Park and Kellyville and replacement schools at Camden and Quakers Hill. In addition, an estimated **\$28 million** will be spent on school building maintenance.

A total of **\$20.3 million** will be spent on the development and refurbishment of **TAFE facilities** at Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Campbelltown, Granville, Kingswood, Mount Druitt, Richmond, Quakers Hill and Wetherill Park.

NSW Fire Brigades

During 1999-2000, seven **new Fire Brigade Stations** will be constructed in Western Sydney at a cost of **\$9.05 million**. These new facilities at Bonnyrigg Heights, Horsley Park, Horningsea Park, Regentville, Cranebrook, Huntingwood and Schofields, will generate approximately 126 full-time firefighter jobs. In addition, land will be purchased in 1999-2000 for the future relocation of fire stations from Northmead to Baulkham Hills (**\$225,000**), from Castle Hill to Glenhaven (**\$225,000**) and from Fairfield to Yennora (**\$225,000**). These re-locations will provide more efficient and effective fire prevention and emergency responses to areas in Western Sydney that have undergone, or are undergoing significant growth and development.

NSW Health

Over **\$98.6 million** is allocated for health related capital works in Western Sydney including facilities at Camden, Campbelltown, Blacktown, the Blue Mountains, Mt Druitt, Penrith and Westmead.

Department of Housing

In 1999-2000, **\$23.9 million** has been allocated both to the Department of Housing and the Office of Community Housing for the **construction or purchase of housing** in Western Sydney for people on low incomes. In addition, the Department will receive **\$53.57 million** for **capital improvements** to existing housing stock in the region.

Landcom

A commitment of **\$23 million** has been made as part of Landcom's contribution to the implementation of water, sewer and trunk drainage infrastructure for the Rouse Hill residential land development in 1999-2000. In addition, Landcom is **developing greenfield estates** throughout the region and anticipates the letting of contracts for 780 lots in south western Sydney and 370 lots in north western Sydney, with a total value of **\$21 million**.

Police Service

In 1999-2000, **\$3.1 million** is allocated for the new \$4 million Auburn and \$4.3 million Narellan Police Stations, both due for completion in June 2000.

Department of Public Works and Services

The Department is co-ordinating the Parramatta Government Property Strategy and the redevelopment opportunities to be realised from the disposal of government-owned sites in 1999-2000. These include the potential redevelopment by the private sector of the Marsden Rehabilitation Centre and Parramatta Hospital sites.

Roads and Traffic Authority

Under the Western Sydney Roads Improvement Program, funding of more than **\$160 million** will be provided in 1999-2000.

Department of Transport

Funding will be allocated to continue the \$100 million Liverpool to Parramatta bus-only Transitway in 1999-2000. When built, the Transitway will provide: improved access to employment opportunities for people in South Western Sydney; reduced travelling times between destinations in the region; 34 rail-style platforms with a full range of passenger facilities; and regular bus services every five minutes in peak times and ten minutes at other times during the day and evening.

The Parramatta to Chatswood Rail Link will improve access to employment opportunities for people in Western Sydney and South Western Sydney; improve rail access by reducing congestion on the Main Western Line; provide trains at least every 15 minutes between Parramatta, Chatswood and Sydney; support the development of Parramatta as Sydney's second CBD; and provide new access to Macquarie University, the University of Western Sydney Parramatta and Westmead campuses, the North Ryde business area and Westmead Hospital/New Children's Hospital. **\$26 million** has been allocated for this project in 1999-2000.

Government Trading Enterprises and State owned Corporations

The **Sydney Catchment Authority** will be continuing the major upgrade of the **Warragamba Dam**. The total project costs are estimated at \$150 million and the \$90 million spillway contract is due for completion by December 2001. Expenditure in 1999-2000 will be in the order of **\$36 million**.

Sydney Water will be undertaking a number of projects in the region and these include:

- ◆ the continued construction of stage 1 of the Blue Mountains Backlog Sewage Program with an allocation of **\$6 million**. This stage will sewer a further 1,550 residential lots between Hazelbrook and North Katoomba;
- ◆ the continuation of work on significant **upgrades to Sewage Treatment Plants** in the Hawkesbury-Nepean system to improve reliability and increase performance. Expenditure in 1999-2000 will be **\$17.3 million**;
- ◆ Construction of a new sewage pumping station, rising main and sub-main to service the existing and growth areas of Hoxton Park, at a cost of **\$7 million** in 1999-2000 (the total cost of the project, which will be completed in 2001, is \$15.2 million);
- ◆ Construction of major remedial works at the Potts Hill Reservoirs site will enclose the last remaining functional open storage facility for drinking water, thus assisting with the safeguarding of public health. **\$12.7 million** has been allocated for this work in 1999-2000 and work is expected to be completed by early 2000;
- ◆ Sewering of the Oaks, Oakdale and Bellambi Park villages at a cost of **\$3 million** in 1999-2000; and
- ◆ Construction of the \$59 million Picton Regional Sewage Scheme with over **\$23.1 million** allocated in 1999-2000. This scheme will be the first in the Corporation's area of operations to achieve Sydney Water's ultimate aim of eliminating dry weather discharges.

Integral Energy has allocated over **\$32.2 million for capital projects** to enhance Western Sydney electrical infrastructure in 1999-2000. This State-owned corporation, located in Blacktown, retails and distributes electricity in Sydney's west and beyond to more than 720,000 households and businesses.

State and Regional Development

The **Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board** is funded by the Department of State and Regional Development and approximately **\$300,000** will be allocated in 1999-2000, an increase on last year's estimate of \$200,000. The Board will continue to advise the Government on the economic development of Western Sydney. Significant projects will be the implementation of initiatives of the Greater Western Sydney Industry Strategy Development, the Onshore Import Replacement Program, Call Centre promotions, establishment of e-commerce and marketing of the Greater Western Sydney region and the Greater Western Sydney Trade and Investment Centre. In 1999-2000, it is expected that **\$500,000** will be paid under the **Industries Assistance Fund** to businesses in Western Sydney in industry support payments.

Tourism

Tourism job initiatives include the \$13 million **facelift for Katoomba and Echo Point**, of which the Government will provide **\$11 million**. Echo Point is visited by 1.4 million tourists each year, making it the most visited site in New South Wales and a major contributor to employment in the Blue Mountains.

The Government's Sydney Tourism Strategy aims to develop Sydney as a visitor destination, with plans to promote Sydney's attractions beyond the traditional tourist destinations. In 1999-2000, **\$330,000** will be available for tourism development in Western Sydney. Under the Strategy, the **Sydney Tourism Experience Development Program** will fund projects to assist local groups to promote their areas.

Skills Development and Resources

Final operating costs for the **Western Sydney and South Western Sydney TAFE Institutes** in 1998-1999 are forecast at **\$97 million and \$105 million**, respectively. Operating costs for the Bankstown, Lidcombe and Padstow TAFE colleges within the **Southern Sydney Institute** are forecast at over **\$49 million**. Funding levels in 1999-2000 will support Institute profiles which reflect industry trends and customer needs.

An estimated **\$4 million** will be available to support **Industry Training Programs** in Western Sydney during 1999/2000 through the 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.

Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology, in the new Department of Information Technology and Management, coordinates the public sector's management and use of information technology and telecommunications.

The NSW Government's Homepage **Service NSW** (<http://www.nsw.gov.au>) provides useful and efficient access to government information and services and encourages the creation of employment and business opportunities. The range of information and services will continue to expand with the focus being on providing electronically delivered services which the community and business need, such as the lodgement of forms and payments online.

Connect.nsw is a whole-of-government strategy for the use of information technology to streamline internal government practices, reduce costs and improve service delivery for the NSW community. In 1999-2000, funding of **\$8.5 million** has been allocated for this service.

The Government's **Year 2000 Millennium Strategy** is in place to raise awareness and assist government agencies, small to medium businesses, local government and the community in dealing with Year 2000 rectification.

The **Government Radio Network** is now one of the largest mobile radio networks in the world, covering 150,000 square kilometres of NSW and processing over 5 million calls per month. The network provides improved radio services to support the delivery of emergency and administrative services to communities, including Western Sydney. **\$0.925 million** will be provided in 1999-2000 for upgrading the network.

Agriculture

The benefits of sustainable agriculture in the Sydney region to the community are extensive. For example, the farm gate value of production is estimated to be at least \$1 billion, with flow-on effects to the economy of \$2 billion to \$3 billion. Another benefit is the employment opportunities, both seasonal and specialised. The Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment has contributed historically and culturally as one of the most productive agricultural areas in Australia. The region covers an area 2.5 percent of New South Wales, but produces 15 percent of the State's agricultural produce.

NSW Agriculture has four establishments in, or directly servicing, Western Sydney. The Windsor District Office is implementing the **Strategic Plan for Sustainable Agriculture in the Sydney Region**, on a whole-of-government and community partnership basis. The **Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute at Camden** has a world class reputation as a Centre of Excellence for animal health and production research and diagnostic work. The **Gosford Research and Advisory Station** supports the cut flower industry in Western Sydney. **The Richmond Organic Waste Recycling Unit** is another establishment directly serving the region. The total budget for these centres is around **\$22 million** per annum. The industries targeted by these establishments are: stone fruit, nursery, vegetable, dairy, turf, mushroom, horse, poultry and beef cattle.

3.2 SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

The population of Western Sydney is disproportionately younger than the rest of the State, with around one-third of its residents being under 19 years of age. The region has a strong migrant and non-English speaking character with one-third of its people born overseas and 78 percent of this group born in countries other than the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, South Africa, Ireland or New Zealand. It is one of the most cosmopolitan regions in Australia, with 30 percent of people speaking a language other than English at home and 60 percent of Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents. Its population grew by 17 percent in the decade to 1996. The Government is responding to this growth and diversity by allocating new resources to the region, and continues to support families and communities and protect children in Western Sydney.

This support is provided through Government agencies such as the Departments of Aboriginal Affairs, Ageing and Disability, Attorney General's, Community Services, Education and Training, Fair Trading, Health, Housing, Juvenile Justice, Urban Affairs and Planning, Women, the Rural Fire Service, the Ethnic Affairs Commission, the Home Care Service and the Police Service.

Government programs, initiatives and services for which funding has been allocated in 1999-2000, and which will support families and communities in Western Sydney, are outlined below.

Health

NSW Health is a major component of the 1999-2000 State Budget. The Government will be spending around **\$1.1 billion** on **better health services** for the residents of Western Sydney in 1999-2000. This funding for new and upgraded hospitals, specialised cancer, women's health and other health services will continue to make it easier for Western Sydney people to obtain health care without having to travel long distances.

Major health facilities are now established in Western Sydney. The Westmead, New Children's, Nepean and Liverpool Hospitals are all major teaching hospitals which are being continually upgraded. Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Camden and Campbelltown hospitals are also being upgraded. These ongoing improvements to regional health facilities are expected to result in a significant improvement in the hospital bed ratio for Western Sydney: the hospital bed ratio has dropped from past highs to one bed per 398 residents in 1999.

People from lower socio-economic backgrounds, Aboriginal people, some ethnic groups and people with disabilities generally have poorer health than the population as a whole. Ensuring equitable access to appropriate services in Western Sydney is a key focus of the Government in improving the health status of the community. The Government will continue to ensure health resources within the Western Sydney, Wentworth and South Western Sydney Area Health Services are provided where the need is greatest.

Major capital projects to be undertaken, continued or completed in 1999-2000 include:

- ◆ continuation of the **Macarthur Sector Strategy** which includes redevelopment of Camden Hospital and upgrading Campbelltown Hospital by 2002, mobile vans to assist isolated areas and a child care centre in Camden/Wollondilly (**\$13.6 million** in 1999-2000 - \$85.6 million total project cost);
- ◆ complete the redevelopment of the Blacktown and Mt Druitt Hospitals at a total project cost of \$96 million (**\$30.5 million** in 1999-2000).
- ◆ complete the stage two development of Nepean Hospital and open the new \$40 million Women's and Children's Health Building to provide neo-natal intensive care services, a birthing centre and new wards in the Penrith area (**\$12 million** in 1999-2000).
- ◆ a new \$5 million Procedural Centre to be established at Westmead Hospital to provide greater access to day only surgery (**\$1 million** in 1999-2000).
- ◆ establishment of new premises for **Wilma Women's Centre** in Campbelltown (**\$760,000**);
- ◆ **Neonatal Emergency Transport** planning is continuing with expenditure in 1999-2000 of **\$1 million**;
- ◆ the **Blue Mountains Hospital** upgrade (**\$1.2 million**);
- ◆ **NSW Breast Cancer Institute** at Westmead (**\$2.4 million**);
- ◆ **Westmead Institutes of Health**, (**\$6.2 million**);
- ◆ **Bodington Hospital Nursing Home** Wentworth Falls, (**\$4 million**); and
- ◆ **Y2K Millennium Bug Rectification** (**\$12.3 million**);

NSW Health will provide significant funding to maintain and expand specialised health services in Western Sydney in 1999-2000. These will include services as outlined below.

An additional **\$2.8 million** will be allocated for **Mental Health Services** for the development of partnerships, prevention, promotion, early intervention and other State-wide programs funded in partnership with the Commonwealth. This is the first year allocation under a five year funding program.

Aboriginal Health Services will be allocated **\$850,000** in 1999-2000.

Funding of **\$260,000** will be provided in 1999-2000 for **Child and Youth Health Services** for an improved network of Early Childhood Centres. An additional **\$130,000** will be provided to the **NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Youth** to improve the health of young people through best practice education and training, community research, networks and partnerships.

The **Rehabilitation and Extended Care Program** in Western Sydney will be allocated an estimated **\$140 million** in 1999-2000. The objectives of the Program are to improve or maintain the well being and independent functioning of people with disabilities or chronic conditions, the frail and the terminally ill.

\$260,000 will be provided on **Suicide Prevention Programs** in the region in 1999-2000. This is the first year's allocation under a five year funding program.

Western Sydney will be allocated approximately **\$7 million** for **Drug and Alcohol Programs** in 1999-2000. A new drug treatment unit is to be built in Western Sydney which will be operated by the Ted Noffs Foundation. The 12 bed purpose built facility will have a special focus on rehabilitation and detoxification services for young people. The Government will provide capital funding of \$900,000 including an expected **\$450,000** in 1999-2000. Once construction is completed it is expected that \$645,000 will be allocated annually for recurrent costs.

Health Improvement Zones will be established in 1999-2000, where it is identified that residents suffer comparatively poor health. These communities including Auburn and Campbelltown/ Claymore will be funded from a State allocation of up to \$2 million per annum.

The Western Sydney Area Health Service will provide an additional **\$500,000** in 1999-2000 for **intensive care services** at Westmead Hospital. Accessibility to intensive care services is critical to the health of the community and the health system at large. The intensive care unit is a pivotal component of the hospital and, in a broader sense, the critical care system. Increased use of day surgery, improved discharge planning and post acute care in conjunction with the ageing of the population and increasing incidence of co-morbidity has led to an increase in patient acuity in hospitals. As a result, the demand for intensive care services continues to increase. Increasing the availability of intensive care beds at the hospital will enhance local service delivery and relieve the pressure on specialist retrieval services.

The South Western Sydney Area Health Service will spend **\$1.6 million** in 1999-2000 on the expansion of speciality services at Liverpool Hospital in the areas of cardiology, rheumatology, gastroenterology, critical care and diabetic care. Patients will gain benefit from a reduced need to travel to receive treatment for acute coronary conditions. Cardiac bypass operations for coronary artery diseases will now be performed at Liverpool Hospital. Also patients with chronic conditions like diabetes and arthritis can receive enhanced care, treatment and follow-up locally by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

The Wentworth Area Health Service will allocate **\$900,000** on the continuation of expanded services, including intensive care and drug and alcohol services at Nepean Hospital to assist in local access to these services for residents. Detoxification services have been identified as a service need in the Nepean area and the development of a five bed detoxification unit at Nepean Hospital will provide dedicated detoxification services for the local population.

Western Sydney will be allocated new ambulance vehicles as part of the \$18.3 million upgrade of the **State's Ambulance Service fleet** which commenced in 1998.

The Police Service's **Community Drug Education Program** involves 37 trained community drug education officers covering all Western Sydney local area commands, including 2 Ethnic Community Liaison Officers. Drug and Alcohol presentations and resources are provided to school and community groups on request. Officers are involved in a range of small-scale community based initiatives in the Blacktown, Penrith and St Marys local area commands, to reduce drug usage.

Education and Training

The flexibility in administration and resource allocation made possible by a single, integrated education and training agency enables schools, institutes and colleges to achieve improved outcomes for students and clients. This is most readily apparent in the quality of arrangements developed for transition from school to further education, training and work. In 1999-2000, the Department of Education and Training estimates that in Western Sydney it will commit:

- ◆ approximately **\$1.28 billion** in operating costs for primary and secondary schools;
- ◆ over **\$24 million** on major new school education facilities;
- ◆ **\$28 million** on school building maintenance;
- ◆ approximately **\$200 million** operating costs for TAFE Institutes; and
- ◆ **\$19.4 million** on the development and refurbishment of TAFE facilities.

The Government will continue to implement its **Computers in Schools** Policy in 1999/2000 to bring the total value of computers provided to schools in Western Sydney to \$37.8 million. A **computer technology grant** of **\$2.2 million** and a **technology grant** of **\$2.1 million** will continue to be provided to Western Sydney schools in 1999-2000. An additional **\$900,000** will be allocated to the **Technology in Learning and Teaching Program** to provide training to teachers working in Western Sydney.

It is expected that over **\$17 million** will be made available for the **Back-to-School Allowance** payments to families in Western Sydney during 1999-2000. **\$20 million** will be provided for literacy programs in schools throughout Western Sydney for 1999 as part of the **Literacy Support Program**, of which a significant component is the Reading Recovery Program.

The Government's new **\$15.5 million** plan for education in the Mt Drutt area is a unique way forward from preschool to employment. The new **Mt Drutt multi-campus college** will provide excellent school education, TAFE and university opportunities. The campus consists of Dunheved, Mt Drutt and Shalvey High Schools for Years 7 to 10, Bidwill High School/Primary School for Preschool to Year 12 and Whalan High School for Years 11 and 12.

Financial assistance of **\$8.2 million** will be provided to 155 schools in Western Sydney in 1999/2000 within the **Disadvantaged Schools Program**. The **Student Assistance Scheme** provides financial support to those students whose families are in greatest need. It is expected that over **\$1.4 million** will be distributed under the scheme to Western Sydney schools in 1999/2000.

The **Youth Assistance Strategies** budget for Western Sydney is expected to be approximately **\$1 million** for 1999-2000. Programs designed to assist disadvantaged young people to improve their self esteem and their literacy and numeracy skills, include **Helping Early Leaver**, **Circuit Breaker** and **Time Out**. An additional **\$130,000** will be allocated for the **TAFE Youth at Risk Program** in the region. An estimated **\$240,000** will be provided to schools in Western Sydney in 1999-2000 to enable year 9 to 12 students to develop individual school to work plans.

The Government will continue **air cooling demountable classrooms** under the State-wide air cooling program with expenditure of \$10 million in 1999-2000. A proportion of this will be allocated to schools in Western Sydney.

The **TAFE NSW Scholarship Scheme** will encourage and support further vocational study for young people who have successfully completed vocational education and training courses as part of their HSC. The scheme guarantees these students a place to continue their studies in the TAFE system. Financial assistance is also provided to assist students from rural and low socio-economic areas. In 1999-2000 it is estimated that **\$340,000** will be spent in Western Sydney under the scheme.

In 1999-2000, funding of \$1 million will be available to students in government secondary schools in NSW to undertake **study of languages overseas**. It is expected that approximately **\$2.3 million** of the Joint Secondary Schools TAFE Program will be distributed in 1999-2000 to schools in Western Sydney by **Local Vocational Education and Training in Schools Committees**. Western Sydney high schools are eligible to apply for funding support through these programs.

Women

The Department for Women will continue to work towards equity and the full participation of women in the social and economic development of Western Sydney. In recognising the need to address the concerns of women in Western Sydney at a regional level, the Department is working with the Office of Western Sydney to implement a joint project to conduct outreach activities for women in Western Sydney. The project involves the secondment of an officer from the Department for Women to the Office of Western Sydney. It aims to integrate women's issues into the initiatives of the Office of Western Sydney. An example is the *Corporate Partners for Change* initiative, designed to increase opportunities for women in employment and training.

It is anticipated that the 1999-2000 **Women's Grants Program** will be advertised in July 1999. A proportion of the funding of some \$1 million will again be allocated to key projects for women in Western Sydney. The program is targeted at women with limited access to social and economic resources.

Significant funds will be provided in 1999-2000 for **Women's Health Services** in Western Sydney. These include:

- ◆ the continuation of the Breast Screening and Assessment Service at a cost of **\$3.5 million**;
- ◆ **\$0.5 million** for the Cervical Screening Program with funds applied for promotion, marketing and education;
- ◆ **\$1.2 million** per annum for Gynaecology and Oncology Services at Westmead;
- ◆ **\$0.7 million** for counselling services at Liverpool Women's Health Centre and Wilma Women's Health Centre;
- ◆ a **\$2.4 million** capital contribution towards the establishment of the NSW Breast Cancer Institute at Westmead, a project due for completion in early 2000; and
- ◆ **\$0.3 million** for Alternative Birthing and other programs.

Other programs which will assist women in Western Sydney in 1999-2000 include:

- ◆ the **Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program** (approximately **\$600,000**);

- ◆ the **Victim Support Program** where Community Safety Officers provide follow up support to victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;
- ◆ the continued presence of seventeen **Domestic Violence Liaison Police Officers** to monitor the efficiency of police response and to provide co-ordination and support at the local level;
- ◆ the New South Wales **Violence Against Women Strategy** which provides improved co-ordination of violence prevention strategies at the local level; and
- ◆ the **Women in Business Mentor Program**.

Services for children and families

The **Department of Community Services'** goal is to assist the empowerment of families, individuals and disadvantaged communities under stress, who require assistance, guidance or protection to enable them to participate in the community. Western Sydney is covered by three Departmental Area Offices at Nepean, South West Sydney and Cumberland/Prospect. The combined operating budget for the three Area Offices for 1999-2000 is approximately **\$177.8 million**. The priorities of the Department and its funded programs include: child protection (\$1.09 million); substitute care (\$17.409 million); adoption; family support (\$6.718 million); children's services (\$19.786 million); community resources (\$12.386 million); supported accommodation and assistance (\$18.592 million); and disability services. A further **\$900,000** in **capital funds** will be provided for the construction of a **multi-purpose children's centre at Hazelbrook** on land provided by and developed by Blue Mountains City Council.

The Government's **Families First** strategy is designed to extend the parenting skills of parents with children under eight years of age through improvement and expansion of family support services. Families First starts with a visit in the family home by a visiting nurse after the baby's birth and is followed up with regular visits from a trained volunteer, often an older person who has a vast amount of life experience. Professional support is available where more intensive assistance is needed. The Office of Children and Young People within The Cabinet Office is responsible for the establishment, development and ongoing evaluation of Families First. The strategy began in South West Sydney in September 1998 with the focus on planning. Implementation will commence on 1 July 1999. It is a multi-agency initiative, with involvement of NSW Health, Department of Community Services, Department of Housing, Ageing and Disability Department and the Department of School Education. \$4.6 million will be allocated to Families First in 1999-2000, of which \$3.5 million will be for new services to support families living in South West Sydney, the mid North Coast and the far North Coast.

The **Department of Juvenile Justice** will be implementing the following programs in Western Sydney in 1999-2000:

- ◆ **Specialist counselling and developmental programs** as an alternative to detention.
- ◆ **Juvenile Justice Community Services** - community based services to provide the courts with sentencing alternatives to custody. There are three offices in Western Sydney located at Blacktown, Fairfield and Campbelltown. Funding will be allocated in 1999-2000 to employ mentors to provide individual support to non-English speaking background and Aboriginal clients and sessional supervisors to supervise and monitor work placements for clients serving community service orders.
- ◆ **Juvenile Justice Centres** - implement court ordered detention for juvenile offenders. Anticipated expenditure for centres in Western Sydney in 1999-2000 is **\$5 million** for Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre, Werrington and **\$7 million** for Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre, Airs.

A number of Western Sydney community organisations are funded by the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide various services.

- ◆ Over **\$1 million** will be allocated by the Department of Juvenile Justice in 1999-2000 for the conduct of **Youth Justice Conferences** for young offenders from Western Sydney.
- ◆ Funding will also be provided in 1999-2000 to implement recommendations from the Wood Royal Commission relating to **accommodation support for homeless young people** who are at risk of drifting into the juvenile justice system.

Funding of the **Schools as Community Centres Program** will be continued in 1999-2000 with approximately **\$125,000** to be expended in Western Sydney.

Projects in Western Sydney under the **Disability Services Program** administered by the Ageing and Disability Department include:

- ◆ **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Family Service Project** which targets children with disabilities aged 0-18 years and their families, living in the Nepean Area, who are having difficulty coping. Quality support and assistance will be provided in 1999-2000 at a cost of **\$235,000**.
- ◆ The Institute for Deaf and Blind Children has established a project of the **Host Family Care Model** as an innovative community accommodation program. The project links deaf children and their families with host families for support. The total cost of the project will be around **\$100,000**.
- ◆ The Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's **Community Support Service** targets the needs of children with severe sensory disabilities from the families of special needs groups within the community, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and families of non-English speaking background. Funding for this project in 1999-2000 is more than **\$240,000**.

Funding will be allocated to Western Sydney for the **Early Childhood Intervention Coordination Program**. The implementation of recommended strategies for **therapy services for school age children** with a disability is currently under-way in the Nepean area.

The **Joint Investigation Teams** established by the Government in 1997 as a project between the Police Service and the Department of Community Services, will continue at Penrith, Liverpool and Campbelltown. This project aims to improve the investigation of child abuse allegations and to minimise distress to child abuse victims through closer co-operation between officers of the two agencies. Over **\$740,000** has been allocated in 1999-2000 to equip the teams in Western Sydney.

\$54,000 has been allocated to fund **Police and Community Youth Clubs** in Western Sydney in 1999-2000.

Services for older people and people with special needs

The **Home Care Service of NSW** is a State-wide service provider, which exists to help frail, aged people and younger people with disabilities and their carers to live independently. In Western Sydney, some 6,200 people receive services each month from Home Care. The services provided include: general housework; personal care; respite care; essential home handy person; live-in care; overnight care; and essential shopping/transport. It is expected that in 1999-2000, approximately **\$28 million** will be spent providing services to the Western Sydney community.

The Department of Local Government will continue its **Subsidies for Pensioner Concessions Program** in 1999-2000 with **\$12 million** as the forecast subsidies for shire and municipal rates relief to be provided to Western Sydney councils.

Integral Energy will provide approximately **\$10 million** in pensioner rebates to 116,070 customers in Western Sydney during 1999-2000.

Apart from the Disability Services Program, the Ageing and Disability Department administers another two community support programs for older people and people with disabilities, their families and carers. Combined State and Commonwealth growth funding in 1999-2000 State-wide, will be in the order of \$16 million. Of this, the Government will expend \$4 million on accommodation to support people with disabilities, \$500,000 on In Home Support, \$2.4 million on respite services, \$2 million on equipment for disabled persons and \$100,000 on support for younger carers.

State-wide expenditure on new initiatives under the **Home and Community Care Program** is estimated to be in the order of \$6.511 million. Recurrent funding for this program in **south western Sydney** will be around **\$350,000** and new projects which will be established in 1999-2000 include: transport service in the Bankstown area; home help service in Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly; lawn mowing services in Bankstown, Fairfield and Liverpool; and Arabic and Spanish respite day care in Fairfield and Liverpool.

Home and Community Care Program funding in the **Cumberland/Prospect** and **Nepean** areas is expected to be more than **\$410,000** and **\$660,000, respectively**. Projects will include aged day care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Penrith and Blacktown and new services for people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds in Blacktown, Holroyd, Baulkham Hills, Penrith, Auburn, Granville, Guildford, Fairfield and Liverpool.

The **Ageing Issues Directorate Programs** in Western Sydney include:

- ◆ The NSW **Healthy Ageing Framework** (1998-2003) aims to provide accessible and supportive communities which enhance older peoples' independence, well being and health by increasing their role in the economic and social life of the community.
- ◆ Under the NSW **Action Plan on Dementia**, a number of initiatives will impact on Western Sydney. Funding includes:
 - **\$148,000** to the South Western Sydney Area Health Service to develop a Multicultural Dementia Assessment Tool, to be completed by 2001;
 - **\$4,100** to each Area Health Service to develop a local dementia plan, to ensure that health services better respond to the needs of people with dementia and their carers;
 - **\$100,000** for an **Aged Care Assessment Team/GP Integration Project** jointly to Western Sydney Division of General Practice and Western Sydney Area Health Service; and
 - **\$65,000** for dementia awareness package for bi-lingual community educators.
- ◆ **Transport Demonstration Projects** which are aimed to improve access to public transport for people with a disability and older people. A total of \$100,000 will be available State-wide in 1999-2000 and a proportion will be allocated to Western Sydney.

Transport Assistance programs provide funding for concessions such as half-fare concessions for pensioners, transport subsidies provided under the Community Transport Program, 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. The estimate for **pensioner travel** in 1999-2000 is \$230 million and for the **Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme**, \$9.877 million. A further \$2.327 million will be spent on the **NSW Community Transport Program**.

Aboriginal People

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs is implementing a broad co-ordination and facilitation approach to Western Sydney Aboriginal issues. The Department contributes to the Regional Co-ordination Program of the Premier's Department by participating on the Western Sydney Regional Co-ordination Management Group. The targeted outcomes for Western Sydney Aboriginal communities through this process are enhanced job and training opportunities and the delivery of better Government services.

The Aboriginal Housing Office was established by the Government to consolidate and oversee Aboriginal housing services as part of its commitment to improved housing options for Aboriginal people. The **Housing Aboriginal Communities Program** provides rental housing for Aboriginal people in housing stock managed by Aboriginal providers.

The Aboriginal Housing Office also provides funding for the Department of Housing to acquire and manage housing under the **Housing for Aboriginals Program**. Although planning for these programs in 1999-2000 has not been finalised, the needs of Aboriginal people in Western Sydney will continue to be recognised. The Department of Housing manages, on behalf of the Aboriginal Housing Office, some 715 dwellings occupied by Aboriginal people in Western Sydney under the Housing for Aboriginals Program. A 3-4 year repair, maintenance and upgrading program for these properties commenced in 1998/99 and is estimated to cost \$7.07 million.

The Department of Fair Trading has established an **Aboriginal Strategy** to meet the needs of Aboriginal consumers in Western Sydney. Approximately **\$112,000** has been allocated in 1999-2000 for the employment of 2 Aboriginal Customer Service Officers located in the Liverpool and Blacktown Fair Trading Centres. An Aboriginal Customer Service Officer is also employed at the Penrith Fair Trading Centre. The aim of the Strategy is to provide a gateway for Aboriginal consumers and traders to the services offered by the Department.

The Government has established an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workplace Services Unit** within the **Department of Industrial Relations Parramatta Contact Centre**, to assist Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to understand their rights and responsibilities as employees, managers and employers. The Unit also provides information on employment issues such as occupational health and safety, workers' compensation and superannuation matters.

The **Police Service** oversees a number of initiatives concerned with Aboriginal communities in Western Sydney such as the **Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers Scheme** to improve the relationships between police and Aboriginal communities; the **Aboriginal Visitors Scheme**, a voluntary scheme to support and assist Aboriginal persons arrested or detained; the **Interagency Committees** which recommend to appropriate government agencies on resolving contentious issues concerning the Aboriginal communities; **Work Experience by Aboriginal students** so that they can consider a career in the Police Service, as sworn or unsworn officers; the **Community Support Scheme**, a voluntary program to prevent young Aboriginal people committing offences; **Blue Light Discos** a voluntary program aimed to maximise positive interaction between police and young Aboriginal people and to provide an alternative to hotels; **Substance Abuse Programs** aimed to restore self esteem and to minimise drug use by Aboriginal youth; the **Police Aboriginal Support Group** aimed at reducing the number of Aboriginal people entering the criminal justice system and at improving police/Aboriginal relationships; and **Police Aboriginal Rugby League Events** to improve relationships and increase positive interaction between police and Aboriginal people.

Housing

In addition to the capital housing allocation in excess of \$77 million in 1999-2000, **\$39.4 million** has been allocated to the Department of Housing for **repairs and maintenance** to its housing stock in Western Sydney.

State-wide, \$205,000 has been allocated for Housing Assistance Planning for 1999-2000, a proportion of which will be spent in Western Sydney. The main objectives in 1999-2000 are to build successful tenancies and communities, increase the viability and efficiency of housing providers and provide diverse local housing responses. The Department of Housing's Housing Assistance Planning process distributes funding across the social housing sector and models options for maintaining or maximising the number of new housing assistances. The process also focuses on improving the existing housing portfolio. The Department each year allocates proportions of its Capital Works budget for Western Sydney and utilising existing mainstream stock, for supported housing. Planning for the allocation of resources will increase housing options for identified priority target groups which include people with drug and alcohol dependency; people living with HIV/AIDS; people with Hepatitis C and other life threatening illnesses; people with acquired brain injury, physical disability, mental illness or developmental disability; people in licensed boarding houses and hostels; and aged people. The 1999-2000 **supported housing** allocation for the region is **\$1.23 million**.

Sport and Recreation

\$100,000 has been allocated in 1999-2000 to the two **Sports Academies** – the Western Sydney Academy of Sport (for athletes drawn from Blacktown, Penrith, Hawkesbury and the Blue Mountains) and the South West Sydney Academy of Sport (including athletes from Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly). With the support of the Government in 1998-99, the **Western Sydney Sports Foundation** was established to ensure talented young athletes in Sydney's West can pursue their potential in sport. A further, **\$50,000** will be provided in 1999-2000. The Government will provide an additional \$350,000 for the **NSW Institute of Sport** to ensure athletes in Institute programs continue to have the best equipment available. A number of these athletes have begun their sporting involvement in talent development programs conducted in Western Sydney.

Programs and services of the Department of Sport and Recreation in Western Sydney include expenditure of approximately **\$320,000** for 1999-2000 for **Swimsafe** learn to swim lessons; **Holiday Sport** programs for children; **Introductory Opportunities** to a sport or recreation activity; **Volunteer Involvement Program** to help organisations gain, train and retain volunteers; **Aquafitness** physical activity in the water; **Fitness Leaders and Austswim Accreditation** education and training of fitness and swimming instructors; and **Sport Development** to assist coaches, officials, players and parents in many aspects of sport.

Two regional athletic tracks are being developed for completion in 1999-2000 at **Blacktown** and **Bankstown**, at a total cost exceeding \$8 million, to support athletes' preparation for the 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In addition, they will provide important long-term regional centres for the ongoing development of Western Sydney track and field athletes. The Department of Sport and Recreation has provided **\$2 million** towards each on a cost sharing basis with Blacktown and Bankstown City Councils.

The State-wide **Youth In Sport Program** with Police and Community Youth Clubs will be funded to the extent of \$300,000 in 1999-2000 to expand the range of sports and to continue working with high profile sporting teams such as the Sydney Swans, Sydney Kings and Sydney Flames. A considerable portion of these funds will be allocated to programs operating in Western Sydney.

Public Safety

Within the Western Sydney region there are 19 **Police Local Area Commands**, each providing front line service to the public. Community-based policing is provided from a number of police stations to diverse communities of people from non-English speaking backgrounds. Major services provided include crime investigation and prevention, promotion of road safety, traffic control, rescue, communications, intelligence analysis, and anti-terrorist and hostage negotiation.

Following the successful trial of streamlined operations at Fairfield Local Court, the Government is to implement a State-wide Court Plan aimed at relieving police from routine court duties and returning them to frontline duties. It has been estimated that time spent by police waiting in courts will be reduced by as much as 25 percent, putting more police back on the streets to protect the community. Western Sydney courts selected to commence the expansion program are Liverpool and Blacktown.

Police Service Programs underway in Western Sydney in 1999-2000, which will enhance the safe environment for the community are: the employment of **Community Safety Police Officers** and **Youth Liaison Police Officers** in all Local Area Commands; **Crime Prevention Workshops** in local schools and a new resource video and manual at an estimated cost of \$75,000 for State-wide use; and the provision of **nameplates to officers** receiving funding under the Community Language Allowance Scheme to **identify the language they speak**, so that they may be readily available to provide assistance for general inquiries and emergency situations.

Corrective Services

A total of approximately **\$108.5 million** has been allocated for recurrent expenditure in Western Sydney in 1999-2000 for the **containment and care of inmates**, for the **Probation and Parole Service** and for **Attendance Centres**.

Supporting Cultural Diversity

Over \$80 million will be spent State-wide by the Department of Education and Training under the **Non-English Speaking Background (NESB) Program** in 1999-2000. In addition, funding of over \$3.3 million will be provided for the **Multicultural Education Plan 1998-2001**. A major proportion of these programs will be implemented in Western Sydney.

Over \$1 million will continue to be provided in 1999-2000 to fund additional **community language full-time teaching positions** in schools across the State. 37 of these positions will be at schools in Western Sydney.

The **Business Migration** initiative will continue in 1999-2000 with a State-wide allocation from the Department of State and Regional Development of approximately \$200,000. This initiative aims to help the setting up of businesses and increase investment and employment opportunities by providing information in community languages, a business counselling/interpreter service, referrals and advice.

The Police Service will continue its **Ethnic Community Liaison Officers Program**, aimed to enhance the relationship between the Police Service and ethnic communities. \$294,000 will be allocated for this initiative in 1999-2000.

The **Police and Community Training Program**, established in 1996, is jointly sponsored by the Police Service and the Ethnic Affairs Commission at a cost of \$480,000 over three years. The Program is to be extended for a twelve month period with a further **\$142,000** in funds committed for Cabramatta, Bankstown and Fairfield. The aim of the program is to promote and facilitate better relationships between police and the local ethnic communities.

The Ethnic Affairs Commission will provide funding under its **Community Development Grants Program** which is designed to assist in promoting the participation of people of ethnic background in all aspects of community life. The **Western Sydney Regional Advisory Committee** will continue to advise the Commission on ethnic affairs issues in the region.

Arts

The Ministry for the Arts, under its **Cultural Grants Program**, will allocate approximately **\$1.67 million** in 1999-2000 for grants to organisations based in Western Sydney. In addition, the

Government will establish a **Western Sydney Local Government Arts Incentive Fund** to provide matching support on a dollar-for-dollar basis for arts projects. It will also refocus the **Capital Assistance Program** of the Ministry for the Arts to give priority to projects in Western Sydney.

Community Development

The Government will continue to provide funds to community organisations in Western Sydney under the Area Assistance Scheme for family and community development services. For 1999-2000 grants under the scheme (including **Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme** and the **Macarthur Area Assistance Scheme**), funding will be maintained at a comparable level to previous years.

3.3 PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Urban growth always adds to the pressure on natural environments. One of the key visions of the Government for Western Sydney is a well conserved natural heritage which adds to the quality of life and is the basis of a thriving tourism industry. Outcomes for the environment on which the Government is focusing are improved air quality, improved water quality of waterways, reduction in the levels of waste, protection of biodiversity and a regional national parks and nature reserves network. With appropriate planning and management, these environmental assets will provide a growing source of employment in the recreation and leisure sector.

In its first term, the Government reserved a record of over 9,000 hectares of bushland across Western Sydney. For the first time, Western Sydney residents have access to world class open spaces and recreational facilities on their doorstep. In addition, the Government has completed stage one of the Urban Bushland Biodiversity Study which surveys vegetation, mammals and birds in Western Sydney and identifies significant areas of bushland requiring protection. It has introduced tough new anti-pollution laws such as the Waste Minimisation and Management Act 1995 which commits New South Wales to achieving 60 percent reduction in waste by the end of the year 2000. It established the independent Health Rivers Commission to provide recommendations to make waterways, such as the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system, healthier.

In 1999-2000 the **Environment Protection Authority** will spend some **\$19.1 million** of its operating budget in Western Sydney. Other agencies having a role in protecting the Western Sydney environment include the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Land and Water Conservation, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Sydney Water, Department of Public Works and Services, Sydney Catchment Authority, Health Rivers Commission, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust, Waste Service NSW and the Sustainable Energy Development Authority.

Clean Air and Clean Waterways

Sydney's air quality is under threat from pollution from a greater number of cars travelling longer distances. In March 1998 the Government launched *Action for Air*, its 25 year **Air Quality Management Plan** for New South Wales, to provide protection of air quality through a comprehensive management plan. The Government is implementing the plan and is providing strategies for air pollution control with the aim of reducing photochemical smog and fine particle pollution for the long-term benefit of the whole community. The plan aims to improve air quality in Sydney by meeting the following vehicle kilometres travelled (vkt) targets:

1. Halting the growth in per capita vkt by 2011.
2. Halting the growth in total vkt by 2021.

The Government is addressing these targets through the implementation of the major bus and rail infrastructure and other transport initiatives contained in *Action for Transport 2010*. In 1999-2000, some **\$1 million** will be expended on the **Air Quality Monitoring Program** in Western Sydney.

The Sustainable Energy Development Authority was established by the Government in 1996 as part of a package of State electricity industry reforms designed to reduce NSW's greenhouse gas emissions. The **Energy Smart Homes Program** provides local councils with a model energy efficient building policy that provides lifetime savings in energy bills and reduces greenhouse gases. It is estimated that approximately **\$0.5 million** will be spent in Western Sydney in 1999-2000 on **residential energy efficiency programs**.

The **Energy Smart Business Program** will continue in 1999-2000 with around 30 business partners with operations in Western Sydney. This program assists companies to identify profitable energy efficiency improvements, lower operating costs, improve the quality of energy-derived services and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Major facilities involved in the **Energy Smart Government Program** in Western Sydney include the South Western Sydney Area Health Service, the New Children's Hospital, Westmead and the Parklea Correctional Centre. This program assists in the reduction of energy consumption in Government buildings.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean River System and its catchment cradles Sydney, supplying it and surrounding regions with food, water, recreational facilities and other resources. It is a complex catchment of 22,000 square kilometres. The main river flows 470 kilometres from Goulburn to Broken Bay and is fed by thousands of kilometres of small creeks and rivers which rise as far afield as Singleton and Lithgow. The Government will implement the **Sydney Catchment Authority** work program to put in place practices and monitoring to ensure clean drinking water for all of Sydney. Up to 100 Sydney Water positions will be transferred to the Authority's office in Penrith.

Funding will be continued for the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust with **\$3.6 million** being allocated in 1999-2000.

The Government's **Water Reform Commitments** in the **Hawkesbury-Nepean** system will involve the allocation of approximately **\$150,000** in 1999-2000 to the **Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Project** to ensure continuation of the water monitoring and management program throughout the summer period.

In addition a further **\$150,000** will be expended in 1999-2000 on a **water reform communications strategy** aimed to ensure that water licensing reforms and effective river flow, groundwater and water quality planning for the Hawkesbury-Nepean system are implemented.

The Government will spend \$6 million over four years on the new **Georges River Foreshore Improvement Program** to stabilise the ecological integrity of the Georges River Catchment. In addition, the Georges River Regional Environment Plan will be implemented to protect and restore important wetlands, provide planning and other controls to reduce pollution and improve water quality and river flows and protect and enhance fresh water and estuarine ecosystems. **\$1.5 million** will be allocated in 1999-2000.

Grants totalling **\$5.5 million** will be allocated by the EPA for the Stormwater Trust for stormwater remediation and associated projects in Western Sydney.

The **Blue Mountains Urban Run-off Control Program** will continue as a joint project by the Department of Local Government and the Roads and Traffic Authority with expenditure in 1999-2000 of **\$4.2 million**.

The Department of Transport contributes funding for the **study of Parramatta River bank erosion** caused by river traffic such as ferries and private craft. An amount of \$500,000 has been allocated over four years and approximately **\$100,000** will be expended in 1999-2000.

The Department of Land and Water Conservation will spend **\$200,000** on a **sewage pump out facility for boats** at Windsor.

Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Forests

The Government will commit an estimated **\$9 million** in 1999-2000, to **Regional Parks, National Parks and Nature Reserves** for the people of Western Sydney. This includes:

- ◆ **Western Sydney Regional Park**, Horsley Park, **\$2.9 million**;
- ◆ **Parramatta Park**, **\$1.4 million**;
- ◆ **Rouse Hill Regional Park**, **\$1.23 million**;
- ◆ **Leacock Regional Park**, Casula, **\$260,000**;
- ◆ **William Howe Regional Park**, Narellan Vale, **\$470,000**; and
- ◆ Improvements and maintenance will also be undertaken at **Bents Basin State Recreation Area**, Greendale, **\$95,000**; **Lower Prospect Canal**, **\$1.5 million**; **Scheyville National Park**, **\$320,000**; **Castlereagh Nature Reserve**, **\$125,000**; **Mulgoa and Kemps Creek Nature Reserves**, **\$410,000** and **\$135,000**, respectively; **Burraborang State Recreation Area**, **\$10,000**; **Nattai National Park**, **\$10,000**; **Thirlmere Lakes National Park**, **\$10,000**; and **Dharawal Nature Reserve**, **\$100,000**.

In Western Sydney, the Government will spend **\$35 million** in 1999-2000 under the **Sydney Region Development Fund**. Negotiations by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning are continuing for the purchase of property, including 305 hectares of land at Doonside for the **Eastern Creek Open Space Corridor**. The Department estimates that the **Metropolitan Greenspace Program** and the **Greening Western Sydney Program** should receive funding in the order of **\$500,000** and **\$675,000**, respectively, in 1999-2000.

53.5 hectares of land at Narellan Vale, valued at an estimated **\$1.3 million**, will be dedicated by Landcom as a **bushland corridor** in 1999-2000.

Bicentennial Park has immense environmental importance. It has 60 hectares of wetlands, the largest remaining estuarine wetlands in the Parramatta River. It is a sanctuary for over 80 species of birds, including protected species from Japan and Siberia. It is a breeding ground for fish, prawns and crabs. The park attracts over 20,000 students each year on organised environmental education tours. In 1999-2000, the park has been allocated **\$3.1 million** in recurrent funding and **\$7.45 million** in capital funding.

Mt Annan Botanic Gardens has been allocated **\$410,000** in 1999-2000 for infrastructure maintenance projects. A further **\$135,000** has been allocated to fund better visitor facilities at the Gardens and \$200,000 in benefactor funds will be spent on playground facilities.

The Government has allocated **\$353,000** in 1999-2000 to both upgrade and provide new visitor services at **Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens**. This will supplement an expected \$95,000 in sponsorship funding.

State Forests of NSW will spend **\$607,000** on capital and operating expenditure within the **Cumberland State Forest** at West Pennant Hills. Also located at West Pennant Hills are the **Forest**

Research and Development Division and the **Cumberland Nursery**, which have an annual operating budget of approximately **\$11.08 million**.

Heritage

The Heritage Office will fund significant **heritage projects** in Western Sydney in 1999-2000.

A **\$450,000** grant to the University of Western Sydney will enable conservation work to be undertaken at the **former female orphanage at Rydalmere**. This is Stage 1 of a \$1 million Heritage 2001 Program grant over 3 years to be matched with \$500,000 by the University.

A **\$200,000** grant will be made to the Parramatta City Council towards **landscape works in the Harris Park heritage precinct**. This is Stage 1 of a \$400,000 Heritage 2001 Program grant over 3 years. The program will be jointly funded by Council to the extent of \$800,000 as well as \$1 million in Commonwealth Federation Fund money to the National Trust.

Hawkesbury City Council will receive a **\$100,000** grant to assist **conservation work to the former Windsor Hospital**. This is Stage 1 of a \$300,000 Heritage 2001 Program grant over three years to be jointly funded by at least \$600,000 from Council.

Waste Management

In 1999-2000, it is anticipated that a total of **\$2.3 million** will be allocated to the **Western Sydney Waste Board** and the **Macarthur Waste Board** to enable the ongoing implementation of the Boards' waste reduction plans. The Boards will address the management of domestic, commercial and industrial waste on a regional basis.

Waste Service NSW is a major supplier of waste management services with significant waste management facilities operating in Western Sydney. In 1999-2000, capital expenditure totalling **\$3.8 million** will be allocated to:

- ◆ **Chullora Recycling Park**, Bankstown (\$1.1 million);
- ◆ **Eastern Creek Waste Management Centre** (\$1.7 million);
- ◆ **Jacks Gully Waste Management Centre, Camden East** (\$0.8 million);
- ◆ **Grange Avenue, Marsden Park Facility** (\$0.1 million); and
- ◆ **Seven Hills Waste Management Centre** (\$0.1 million).

The Department of Transport is undertaking a project for the **remediation of contaminated areas of Homebush Bay**, caused by industrial waste, at a total cost of \$21 million. Almost \$1 million has been spent on preliminary work and a further **\$1 million** will be expended in 1999-2000.

The Waste Planning and Management Fund, administered by the Environment Protection Authority, will also provide grants of around **\$2 million** to promote community waste reduction programs in the region.

3.4 BETTER GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Government is committed to securing a better future for the people of Western Sydney through the provision of effective and efficient Government services that meet the needs of the region. In particular, emphasis is being placed on: strong employment growth, particularly jobs being available within the region; improved access to Government services within the region; a first rate public transport system;

better roads for motorists and freight haulers; excellent and equitable provision of health, education and other community services; clean water and air; a conserved natural and cultural heritage; and well designed and serviced housing in safe neighbourhoods.

Government programs, initiatives and services for which funding has been allocated in 1999-2000 and which are contributing to the better delivery of Government services in Western Sydney are summarised below. Agencies delivering government services within the region include, the Premier's Department, Department of Transport, Roads and Traffic Authority, State Rail Authority, Department of Fair Trading, Attorney General's Department, Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire Brigades and the Department of Industrial Relations.

Premier's Department

Premier's Department has several major 'place'-focussed and coordination initiatives in Western Sydney. The total budget allocation in 1999-2000 for these regional initiatives is **\$600,000**.

Cabramatta Project. The Cabramatta Project aims to improve the level of government services to Cabramatta by enhancing coordination between government agencies and between government, the community and the business sector. This initiative is a partnership with Fairfield City Council. The priority areas for the project are drugs and law and order, vocational training and employment for young people, tourism development and urban planning improvements. The Cabramatta Project will be reviewed during the year.

Regional Co-ordination Program. The Department's Regional Co-ordination Program was extended to Western Sydney in 1998. The Regional Co-ordinator manages a number of strategic projects that have the potential to bring significant benefits to the people, the economy, infrastructure or the environment of the region. Strategic projects are complex, time-limited, have multiple stakeholders with diverse expectations and require a whole of government solution. The Regional Co-ordination Management Group, made up of regional managers from the twenty-four government agencies contributing to the Regional Coordination Program, has met several times to identify regional cross-agency priorities.

In 1998-99, the projects managed by the Regional Coordinator included facilitation of government agencies to achieve the framework to redevelop Boral's Greystanes quarry and the release of a major parcel of 'employment lands' with the potential to generate 1,700 construction jobs and 7,500 full time jobs; review and facilitation of funding for the proposed Prospect Canal park; and public consultations with stakeholders for the pilot Drug Court now operating in Parramatta.

In 1999-2000 the Department will appoint a Regional Co-ordinator for the region's south west Macarthur area.

Bankstown. In response to a number of high profile crime and safety incidents, the Premier met with community leaders from the Canterbury-Bankstown area in November 1998. Consequently, the Premier's Department was asked to consult in more detail with the community and agencies on issues concerning young people and families. An action plan, which addresses the various issues of concern, is now being implemented in consultation with government and non-government agencies, the two local councils and the community.

Infrastructure Coordination Unit. The Infrastructure Coordination Unit, formerly the Ministry of Urban Infrastructure Management, aims to achieve a more co-ordinated and efficient delivery of government infrastructure in the State, including in Western Sydney. The Unit was re-located to Premier's Department in April 1999. The Unit's goal is to identify priority projects and issues for infrastructure provision to enable resources to be used more effectively and equitably to better meet regional needs.

In Western Sydney, the Unit has co-located an experienced planning professional with Liverpool City Council to plan for and coordinate the release of lands and to plan for coordinated services delivery in major growth areas surrounding Liverpool.

Transport

In 1999-2000, it is estimated that \$21.5 million will be spent on posting **security guards** on every CityRail train from 7pm until the service closes each night. Surveillance cameras are being installed on 4,000 government and private buses.

The **\$1 State Rail and State Transit Pensioner Excursion Ticket Scheme** allows pensioners to be provided with unlimited travel on CityRail services and most State Transit Authority services on the day of purchase. Approximately \$144 million will be allocated for the scheme in 1999-2000, with patronage expected to increase by 1 percent.

Roads and Traffic Authority

As part of the Government's **Western Sydney Roads and Transport Program**, works exceeding **\$160 million** have been programmed for 1999-2000. Major construction projects under the program are:

- ◆ \$26 million on the construction of the Liverpool to Parramatta Bus only Transitway;
- ◆ \$7.5 million on a new railway overbridge on Horsley Drive at Carramar;
- ◆ \$9.8 million to widen Castlereagh Road from Jane Street, Penrith to the Penrith Lakes;
- ◆ \$6 million to widen Old Windsor Road;
- ◆ \$5.3 million to widen Cowpasture Road from Restwell Road to the Horsley Drive; and
- ◆ \$5 million to widen Elizabeth Drive between Cabramatta Road and Cowpasture Road.

Fair Trading and Consumer Protection

The Department of Fair Trading commenced the **Home Building Grants Program** in 1999 with a State-wide allocation of \$600,000. The Program provides funding to education initiatives or research projects which enhance the relationship between home builders and consumers, enhance the professionalism of the industry or provide support to apprentices. Approved grants offering benefit to Western Sydney under the inaugural 1999-2000 Program total **\$250,000**.

\$1.05 million in funding will be provided for the **Residential Tribunal** in Western Sydney in 1999-2000. Tribunal hearings will be held at Penrith, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Parramatta, Liverpool and Katoomba.

\$415,000 will be spent in 1999-2000 on the **Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program** by the Department of Fair Trading to continue to improve tenancy support services for people living in Western Sydney through the Western Sydney Tenants Service located at Harris Park and the South West Tenants Advice Service at Liverpool. These services provide community education programs as well as advocacy services with cases before the Tribunal and the program assists tenants in risk groups including Aboriginal tenants, tenants of non-English speaking and culturally diverse backgrounds, older tenants, tenants in supported accommodation and tenants with disabilities. **Financial Counselling** will continue to be provided to the people of Western Sydney by the Government in 1999-2000, with more than **\$296,000** allocated.

Approximately **\$20,000** will be spent on advertising campaigns in 1999-2000, to reach Western Sydney audiences, under the **Register of Encumbered Vehicles Program**. The campaigns are aimed to raise awareness about the service to prospective buyers and to provide information on unpaid debt on second-hand vehicles.

The annual operating budget for the **Fair Trading Centres** at Penrith, Blacktown, Liverpool and Parramatta is **\$3.4 million** in 1999-2000. The Centres provide information and assistance on the full range of services offered by the Department of Fair Trading, including consumer information and complaint handling relating to fair trading, home building, tenancy and motor vehicles. The Centres assist to resolve issues locally and at no cost to the consumer.

Justice

Remote Witness Closed Circuit TV facilities, successfully implemented at 59 courthouses throughout New South Wales, are to be extended to Western Sydney. The objectives of the program are to provide facilities consistent with the Children's Evidence Taskforce which recommends that children provide evidence from outside the courtroom. \$205,000 will be spent State-wide on this program in 1999-2000.

A **NSW Drug Court** has been established in Parramatta on a two year trial basis. The Attorney General's Department will be providing expenditure in 1999-2000 in the order of **\$1.2 million**. The Court is primarily a crime prevention initiative involving treatment programs to rehabilitate drug dependent, non-violent adult offenders.

The budget for **Community Justice Centres** in Western Sydney in 1999-2000 will be **\$1.5 million**. The Centres located at Bankstown, Campbelltown and Penrith, offer free mediation to members of the public and provide an informal and impartial dispute resolution service and deal with matters such as youth conflict, workplace grievances and neighbourhood disputes.

Emergency Services

During 1999-2000, the **Hawkesbury-Nepean Floodplain Management Strategy** will continue. \$58.3 million has been allocated to the strategy for the five years 1998/99 to 2002/03, plus \$1 million per annum thereafter. The strategy aims to ensure the better management of the flood risk between Warragamba Dam and Broken Bay.

The Rural Fire Service is responsible for the co-ordination, in conjunction with local government, of the State's **Rural Fire Brigades**. In Western Sydney, allocations will be provided in 1999-2000, through the Rural Fire Fighting Fund, to the local government areas of Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Penrith, and Wollondilly. The Service will continue with the provision of specialised fire fighting equipment to local government in 1999-2000. In 1999-2000, \$5 million is to be provided State-wide for the purchase of new fire tankers.

Survey Services

The Surveyor-General will spend **\$300,000** in 1999-2000 in the first stage of a two year program which will provide **new edition topographic maps and digital information** for Western Sydney. A further **\$500,000** will be provided for **digital subdivision and boundary mapping** that will facilitate planning and land management in Western Sydney.

Waterways

Under the Waterways Authority's **Waterways Asset Development and Management Program** **\$59,000** will be provided to **Penrith City Council** to assist in the upgrade of boating facilities at Trench Reserve. The Authority is negotiating with **Auburn Council** regarding the provision of an estimated **\$60,000** for improvements to the Wilson Park Boat Ramp at Silverwater.

Industrial Relations

The Government will be allocating **\$1.8 million** to **support industrial relations services** in 1999-2000 through Contact Centres located in Parramatta and Bankstown. The Centres support the compliance activities of the Department of Industrial Relations, especially the services provided by Industrial Inspectors and provide assistance to employers and employees with workplace difficulties. They also undertake targeted activities in key industries and occupations through award education and compliance campaigns. The Department will continue its strong involvement with the clothing industry to further alleviate the exploitation of clothing outworkers, who are often women from non-English speaking backgrounds, living and working in Western Sydney.

CHAPTER 4: OLYMPICS BUDGET – WESTERN SYDNEY

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 number of people estimated to have worked on Olympic construction projects in Western Sydney and Homebush Bay has topped 100,000. Some 35,000 people have so far worked on Olympic construction sites, with twice that number employed in supporting jobs off-site.

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.

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 a popular destination for the people of Sydney and visitors. Stadium Australia, the Olympic Stadium, became operational on 6 March 1999, with over 104,000 spectators to see the playing of two first grade rugby league matches. In addition, the Olympic sites are the new home of the Royal Easter Show and are world class venues for performances such as the Bee Gee's concert held on 27 March 1999.

Public transport access to the site has been an integral feature of Homebush Bay since the commencement of detailed planning. Homebush Bay is accessible via the new rail loop to Olympic Park station. Regular bus services to Strathfield, Lidcombe and Parramatta serve the site and ferry services are also available.

In addition to the magnificent facilities at Homebush Bay, approximately \$317 million is being allocated towards the construction of Olympic and Paralympic sporting venues, as well as the Media and Technical officials' village, at various locations in Western Sydney.

Western Sydney Venues

Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park

This \$38 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. Work is due to be completed in mid 1999.

Shooting Centre, Cecil Park, Liverpool

Construction on the \$30 million Shooting Centre commenced in March 1998 and will be completed in late 1999.

Aquilina Reserve, Blacktown – Softball Centre, Second Baseball Venue and Athletic Training Facilities

The Softball Centre will have permanent seating for 1,000 and will become the headquarters of the NSW Softball Association and the home of Women's Softball in NSW. Construction is scheduled to be completed in late 1999. Further works at the site will see an international Athletic Track and Athletic Throwing area and the second Baseball Olympic venue. The total development costs are approximately \$30 million.

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 late 1999.

Slalom Canoe Course, Penrith Lakes

A separate Slalom Canoe course is being 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 \$6.6 million, of which the New South Wales Government is contributing \$3.5 million, Penrith Council \$1.6 million and the International Canoe Federation \$1.5 million. Work is due to be completed in mid 1999.

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 construction and refurbishment program began in March 1998 and will be completed mid 2000. Technical officials will be housed at the Westbridge Centre, Villawood. The villages are being constructed at a cost of \$104 million, of which Government will contribute \$63 million.

Homebush Bay

Superdome (Multi-Use Arena)

Work is advanced on the \$197 million Superdome which will be used as the Olympic venue for basketball finals and artistic gymnastics as well as the Paralympic venue for basketball. During the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the venue will have a capacity of at least 15,000 seats, with 20,000 seats after the Games. It will be Australia's largest indoor sports and entertainment centre. Completion of this facility is due in late 1999. The Government's contribution to the facility is \$142 million.

Athletes' Village

The Athletes' Village is located adjacent to the Olympic site and will house approximately 15,000 athletes and team officials. After the Games, the village will be part of the new suburb of Newington, with more than 2,000 dwellings housing an estimated 5,000 people. It will be the world's largest solar-powered suburb offering an environmental model for future urban development. Pacific Power anticipates that it will expend approximately **\$3.8 million** on the **Olympic Solar Village Project** during 1999-2000. After the Games, the village will include a high-tech business park which will provide up to 1,600 long-term jobs.

Construction of the village is estimated to cost \$590 million. The Government's contribution to construction costs (adjusted to 1999-2000 dollars) is \$70.7 million.

Millennium Parklands

The Millennium Parklands will be one of the great legacies of the Olympic Games. Ultimately, there will be 450 hectares of diverse landscape Millennium Parklands with a network of up to 40 kilometres of pedestrian and cycle trails. Remediation is almost complete and landscaping is now taking place. The parklands will connect with the existing Bicentennial Park to become Sydney's largest metropolitan parkland. The park area will be connected by a network of cycle routes and footpaths to the regional network linking Parramatta, Rookwood, Rhodes and Concord West.

The first stage of the Parklands development will be in the areas surrounding the Olympic facilities and the Showground and will provide a unique landscape setting for recreation, conservation and environmental education. It will be completed prior to the Olympic Games at a cost of \$22.5 million.

Tennis Centre

The \$39 million Tennis Centre is scheduled to be completed by September 1999 and the Government will be contributing \$30.3 million. The complex will comprise 16 courts for the Olympic Games, including a centre court with 10,000 permanent seats, TV standard sports lighting to allow for night-time broadcasts and a roof to provide shade for 70 percent of the centre court seats.

Site Remediation

Sydney's winning bid for the Olympic Games featured a strong commitment to the environment. Remediation of former landfill sites at Homebush Bay is turning a former land use liability into a great community asset. Where possible, habitats are being created to encourage native birds and animals to use the areas. The Government has budgeted \$137 million for remediation works and these are largely completed. As part of this package of remediation works, the Government announced in March 1998 that it had allocated some \$12 million towards on-going monitoring and management of remediated lands at Homebush Bay. Remediation of nearby Wilson Park at Auburn will also be undertaken to benefit local residents.

Roads and Parking

Internal road and associated infrastructure at Homebush Bay worth a total of \$323 million will be completed in 1999. This includes roads, bus ways, footpaths, cycle ways, carparks and landscaping.

Transport

The Government has established the Olympic Roads and Transport Authority to coordinate the planning and delivery of transport services during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In addition the Authority is responsible for the provision of transport services at a number of pre-games events including the Royal Easter Show at Homebush Bay.

CHAPTER 5: OUTCOMES OF 1998-99 BUDGET INITIATIVES

The 1998-99 Western Sydney Budget Statement was the first Budget Statement ever produced by a New South Wales Government which focuses solely on Western Sydney. The document provided details of the extent of Government expenditure on agency operations and individual programs in Western Sydney. The 1999-2000 document again provides this information as well as reports on the outcomes of the Government's Budget commitments from the previous year. This presents a more comprehensive picture of Government funding to Western Sydney and enables the effectiveness of its programs and expenditure to be measured.

The following tables list initiatives which appeared in the 1998-99 Western Sydney Budget Statement and outline the outcomes to date. In almost all cases the Government has implemented, or is well into the process of implementing, the initiatives listed.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
SECURING JOBS AND INVESTMENT <i>State and Regional Development</i> Approximately \$200,000 will be allocated in 1998/99 to the Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board.	The Department of State and Regional Development allocated \$200,000 to the Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board to undertake: the inaugural OnShore Import Replacement Program; a consultancy to develop the Greater Western Sydney Industry Strategy; initiation of the Greater Western Sydney Call Centre Promotions; the establishment of the Greater Western Sydney Internet Site; and production of the quarterly Greater Western Sydney Economic Bulletin and the bimonthly Economic Powerhouse Newsletter.
\$80,000 will be provided for the Western Sydney Import Replacement Expo in 1998/99.	\$80,000 was expended on the Inaugural OnShore Import Replacement Launch at Rosehill Racecourse in October 1998 (funded as part of the \$200,000 allocated to the Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board).
Under the Industries Assistance Fund almost \$2.2 million is expected in industry support payments to Western Sydney in 1998/99.	It is expected that \$1.571 million will be paid to companies located in Western Sydney in 1998-99. Project facilitation is the most important element in the Department of State and Regional Development's services in securing investment financial assistance. Financial assistance is only used where other solutions have been exhausted.
The Greater Western Sydney Investment Centre will receive approximately \$80,000 funding in 1998/99.	The Board and the Investment Centre conducted a co-operative advertising program to increase awareness and attractiveness of Western Sydney as an investment location. Some of the significant achievements of the Investment Centre are: an increase in the annual average rate of visitors to the Centre; delegations from many overseas countries; preview of Cantonese/Mandarin versions of the Greater Western Sydney Investment videos to the Chinese Deputy Consul; address by NSW official of Tokyo Office Industries; and development of a marketing plan for the Investment Centre.
\$200,000 has been allocated in 1998-99 to the Business Migration initiative which provides information in community languages, a business counselling and interpreter service, referrals and advice.	The Department of State and Regional Development allocated \$200,000 throughout the State in 1998-99 to the Business Migration Information and Referral Service. In the six months to December 1998, State-wide, the Service contacted 115 new clients, had repeat contact with 482 clients, had an average of 12 clients under management at any one time, counselled 184 clients and ran two seminars for 210 participants.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
Public Infrastructure Close to \$800 million will be allocated to capital works in 1998/99 in Western Sydney. This includes more than \$270 million allocated to government trading enterprises and state owned corporations. Some of the major capital projects are: ◆ Over \$45 million is allocated for major new projects for school education facilities including new schools at Currans Hill, Carnes Hill and Nirimba. ◆ \$16.4 million is allocated for TAFE facilities. ◆ Over \$110 million is allocated to new facilities and accommodation at hospitals, nursing homes and community health centres. ◆ \$15.6 million is allocated for improvements to corrective service facilities. ◆ \$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 \$100 million Liverpool Parramatta bus-only Transitway will commence construction in 1998-99.	The Parramatta-Chatswood rail link was announced in Action for Transport 2010, an integrated transport plan for Sydney, released by the Minister for Transport. Planned expenditure in 1998-99 is \$2.5 million. Over \$16 million was spent on major new projects for school education facilities, including new schools at Carnes Hill and Nirimba and replacement schools at Camden and Quakers Hill. \$15.3 million will be spent on the development and refurbishment of TAFE facilities at Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Campbelltown, Granville, Mount Druitt, Padstow, Quakers Hill and Wetherill Park. Details of the Department of Health's allocation are provided in the Supporting Families and Communities Section of this Budget Statement. At Emu Plains Correctional Centre, work is progressing on the construction of domestic style housing units in a simulated campus environment which will provide accommodation for 70 female inmates. Construction is also well in advance for accommodation of an additional 300 inmates at the John Moroney Correctional Centre, Windsor, due for completion in 1999-2000. Expenditure to upgrade Liverpool Station and Interchange in 1998-99 is expected to be \$8.7 million and on the Bankstown Station, \$2.5 million. Improved lighting to 30 stations and improved security to a further 20 stations in the region is being undertaken under the Safe Stations project, to be completed in June 1999. Work has commenced on the construction of the 30 kilometre Liverpool to Parramatta Rapid Bus Only Transitway plus the 34 stations/interchanges. The first 2.8 kilometre section of the transitway and three stations are due for completion by December 1999 and the estimated cost in 1998-99 for this project is \$15 million.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
♦ \$140 million is allocated for major road and bridge projects. (The Western Sydney Roads and Transport Program is an initiative introduced by the Government in 1995. A program of works was developed to enable many of the projects in progress to be accelerated and completed ahead of schedule. The program also enabled a number of other projects, such as the widening of the M4 from Parramatta to Penrith and transport improvements at Westmead and Liverpool, to commence.)	It is anticipated that \$150 million will be expended in Western Sydney in 1998-99 on road projects and road-related transport infrastructure works. They include: Road Network Development \$95 million - ♦ major construction along the M4; ♦ construction of the Roberts Road overpass at the Hume highway, Chullora; ♦ construction of a four lane divided road on Elizabeth Drive between Cabramatta and Cowpasture Road; ♦ duplication of the M5 bridge over the Georges River at Liverpool; ♦ the upgrading of Heathcote Road from Macarthur Drive to New Illawarra Road; ♦ construction of Stacey Street extension from the Hume Highway to Rookwood Road to provide a four lane divided road; ♦ reconstruction of Cowpasture Road to provide a four lane divided road between Elizabeth Drive and The Horseley Drive; ♦ widening of Campbelltown Road between Rudd Road and Blaxland Road; and ♦ widening of Victoria Street, Wetherill Park. Road Maintenance \$25 million for major works involving pavement strengthening and resurfacing, bridge maintenance and Regional Roads maintenance projects. Road Safety \$ 1.6 million for treatment of accident black spots to improve safety at intersections; enhanced delineation of routes; installation of traffic signals; and family, school and community based education campaigns. Traffic Management \$29 million for enhanced route development and improved capacity at intersections; intersection upgrades by the provision of traffic signals; railway level crossing replacements; provision for rail commuter parking; and provision of transit and bus and bus priority lanes, interchange improvements and school bus bays.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
◆ \$56.9 million is allocated to the construction or purchase of housing for people on low incomes in Western Sydney.	In 1998-99 the Government continued to increase the supply and standard of public housing to the people of Western Sydney with a total allocation of some \$68.4 million. The Department of Housing's Western Sydney Region has been allocated \$24 million for the construction of 300 new general and pensioner units of accommodation. The allocation of \$12.3 million to the Southern Sydney Region for the provision of public housing in Bankstown is expected to be fully expended. In the same period, the South Western Sydney Region of the Department was allocated funds totalling \$26.1 million under the Capital Works Program.
◆ \$3.4 million is allocated for a new Police Station at Auburn and other capital works on police facilities, including upgrading Narellan Police Station. ◆ \$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. ◆ The State Records Authority of NSW will spend \$3.1 million in 1998-99 to extend the Kingswood facility. ◆ \$8.9 million in 1998-99 for major upgrade to the Warragamba Dam. ◆ \$10.9 million in 1998-99 of a \$135 million five year Infiltration /Exfiltration sewer repair program.	Both the Auburn and Narellan Police Station are due for completion in June 2000. Additions and alteration to Fairfield, Revesby, St Marys, Bankstown and Merrylands Police Stations will be finalised by June 1999. New stations are to be constructed in Western Sydney in 1998-99, at Rosemeadow and Narellan, at a capital cost of \$2.793 million and a full year recurrent expenditure of \$972,000. The construction of the remaining four facilities has not been possible due to protracted difficulties in acquiring suitable sites and the construction of these stations will occur in 1999-2000. The Kingswood facility will receive capital funds of \$2.6 million to expand archives storage at the Western Sydney Records Centre, and \$1.5 million to expand storage at the Government Records Repository. Construction has commenced on a purpose-built storage facility providing an extra 80 kilometres of climate controlled storage for the State's archives at the Western Sydney Records Centre at Kingswood. In addition, approximately 5 kilometres of State archives are currently being relocated from the State Archives building at The Rocks to the Kingswood facility, increasing Western Sydney holdings to 55 kilometres. The \$90 million Spillway contract was awarded in December 1998 and work is due for completion by December 2001. The total upgrade project is estimated to cost \$150 million. The program is due to be completed by June 2001. The Environmental Impact Statements were submitted to the EPA in May 1998 and made available for public display to October 1998. EPA expects a determination and issue of the licences by mid 1999.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
♦ In excess of \$24 million for continuation of significant upgrades to Sewage Treatment Plants, including Blackheath, Glenbrook, Penrith, West Camden and Winmalee.	The focus on sewage systems renewals and upgrading work is the on-going maintenance of Sydney Water's existing sewage system to ensure that the Corporation meets its service obligations under its Operating Licence and Customer Contract. ♦ Blackheath – servicing of unsewered lots in Blackheath, Mt Victoria and Medlow Bath will be completed by 2006, following exhibition and approval of the Environmental Impact Statement. ♦ Glenbrook – Sydney Water intends transferring the flow from Mt Riverview's Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to Penrith by 2000. Contracts to construct the borehole from Mt Riverview to the existing Emu Plains carrier are being finalised. ♦ Penrith – work on this \$4.2 million project is expected to be completed by mid 2000, with the construction of a new sewer pumping station and storage tank outside Penrith STP. ♦ West Camden – Sydney Water is investigating the provision of a conventional sewage scheme to Menangle/Menangle Park, with flows directed to the West Camden STP. The Environmental Impact Assessment is expected to be completed by mid 1999 with total project costs estimated at \$8 million. ♦ Winmalee – the \$24 million amplifications and upgrade for Winmalee STP were completed during 1998. It was designed for full tertiary treatment and nutrient removal in order to protect the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system.
Integral Energy has allocated over \$33 million to capital projects in Western Sydney in 1998-99.	Integral Energy will complete capital projects totalling \$33.9 million in Western Sydney during 1998-99.
Tourism \$77,000 is available in 1998-99 for Western Sydney under the Sydney Tourism Experience Development Program.	\$77,000 been allocated by Tourism New South Wales under this program to fund marketing projects of local area groups.
Skills development and resources Funding for Western Sydney and South Western Sydney TAFE Institutes will be \$198 million in 1998-99.	The 1998-99 budgets for these Institutes of TAFE were \$96.9 million and \$105.5 million respectively. In 1998, equivalent full time TAFE student numbers increased by 3.2% in Western Sydney and 4.1% in South Western Sydney.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
More than \$8 million will be available for industry training programs in Western Sydney in 1998-99.	The \$8 million includes Aboriginal Programs, Mature Workers Program and Specialist Migrant Placement Officer Program which are not part of industry training programs. The 1998/99 budget for industry training programs is around \$4 million. 1,651 people received vocational training from various vocationally oriented courses under the Contracted Training Provision, ACCESS and Skillsgap programs that were delivered at sites in Western Sydney. In addition, 519 registered trainees received structured vocational training under the Traineeship Training Programs.
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.	The building will have the capacity to hold approximately 120,000 boxes of diamond drill core resulting from exploration for coal, petroleum and minerals. This project will allow for the provision of data to facilitate mining prospects and projects in NSW and attract local and overseas investment. The estimated completion date is June 1999.
Information Technology The NSW Government's homepage ServiceNSW ensures communities receive useful and efficient access to government services and encourages the creation of employment and business opportunities.	ServiceNSW now has links to over 1200 NSW Government web sites that provide information and other services to the people of Western Sydney. During the year the number and variety of sites has increased and government agencies have continuously enhanced their sites with more information and services.
Initiatives that will benefit Western Sydney include the strategy for tackling the Year 2000 Millennium Bug and the continued operation of the Government Radio Network.	The whole of government approach to address Year 2000 rectification has resulted in an awareness raising program to assist government agencies, small to medium businesses, community and local government. Fifteen sessions were held throughout the State including Parramatta and Penrith. 200 new Information Technology TAFE traineeships have been created to provide more Year 2000 specialists. Consumer awareness programs are to be conducted by the Department of Fair Trading in conjunction with the Office of Information Technology and Department of State and Regional Development. Capital expenditure on the Government Radio Network in 1998/99 totals \$11.3 million. Improvements directly affecting Western Sydney total approximately \$1.25 million.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES <i>Health</i> Capital works will be undertaken in Western Sydney at an estimated total cost of \$400.3 million. In excess of \$110 million will be expended in 1998-99 and this includes: ◆ 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); ◆ continuation of Stage 2 Nepean Hospital redevelopment (\$27 million); ◆ continuation of Blacktown Hospital redevelopment (\$40 million); ◆ commencement of the Macarthur Sector Strategy (\$6.8 million); ◆ construction of Rosemeadow and Tahmoor Community Health Centres (\$4.7 million);	A new 80 bed nursing home and aged care facility for 40 persons will be provided on the Bodington Hospital site. The main contract will be let in July 1999 and the target date for completion is August 2000. Tenders for the construction of an 80 bed nursing home are to be invited. The hospital is being upgraded to a major referral and teaching hospital with the inclusion of a new Cancer Care Centre. This \$11 million redevelopment is in the final stages. The Cancer Care Centre, which was officially opened by the Premier in December 1998, treated its first patients in October 1998. Construction of the Women's and Children's building will be completed in November 1999. Works to the West and North Blocks will proceed. Construction of the main building will be finalised by December 1999. \$46.6 million is budgeted to be spent on this \$96.1 million project in 1998-99. The 1998-99 cash flow for the Strategy is \$9.9 million. The project includes: ◆ development of the Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals; ◆ the refurbishment of the Campbelltown Community Health Centre due for completion by June 1999; ◆ a Community Transport Service consisting of six vehicles fully commissioned in April 1999; ◆ the new Tahmoor (Wollondilly) Community Health Centre which was completed in October 1998; and ◆ the construction of the Rosemeadow Community Health Centre was completed in April 1999 (see below). 1998-99 expenditure for these two projects is \$3.7 million. The Tahmoor Community Health Centre was completed at a cost of \$2.6 million and commissioned in November 1998. Construction of the Rosemeadow Community Health Centre was completed in April 1999.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
◆ completion of Blue Mountains Hospital upgrade (\$4 million); ◆ new premises for Wilma Women's Centre, Campbelltown (\$300,000); and ◆ provision of over \$4 million for the commencement of a Mental Health Services Child and Adolescent Unit at Fairfield, the completion of a Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit at Cumberland Hospital and Pialla Admission Unit at Penrith.	This project involves the upgrading of two operating suites, due for completion by November 1999. The new Emergency Department was officially opened by the Minister for Health in November 1998. Work on the new central sterile supply department is complete. The land for this new facility has been purchased and planning for construction is progressing. The projected 1998-99 expenditure is \$460,000. The inpatient facility at Nepean Hospital, Penrith was completed in April 1999 and the Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit at Cumberland Hospital was completed in October 1998. The \$0.7 million Fairfield Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit is under review and the completion date is yet to be determined.
Child and Youth Services will receive over \$11 million funding in 1998-99. Paediatric Inpatient Services at Bankstown, Campbelltown, Fairfield and Liverpool will receive almost \$3 million. \$1.2 million will be provided under the South West Sydney Area Health Service Child Protection and Community Paediatric Services. The Karitane Family Support Organisation will receive \$3.1 million. Specialised Child and Adolescent Mental Health programs (\$410,000) will be provided in the Wentworth Area.	In 1998-99, funding for the continued provision of paediatric inpatient services was allocated at Bankstown (\$1.07 million), Campbelltown (\$1.6 million) and Liverpool (\$2.17 million). The Karitane Family Support Organisation has an operating budget of \$2.9 million in 1998-99, representing a 1% growth from the previous year. South Western Sydney Area Health Service Child Protection and Community Paediatric Services has an allocation in 1998-99 of \$310,000 for Community Paediatrics and \$890,000 for Child Protection Services. The Specialised Child and Adolescent Mental Health programs conducted in the Wentworth Area are ongoing with recurrent funding being provided.
Funds of \$354,000 will be allocated 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.	These programs are ongoing with recurrent funding being provided.
Mental Health Programs will be conducted in the South Western Sydney Area Health Service during 1998-99 at: ◆ Liverpool/Fairfield Mental Health Services (\$2.4 million); ◆ Liverpool Mental Health Inpatient Unit (\$2.5 million);	The following provides an analysis of mental health funding and the level of activity for mental health programs: The annual provision of services \$3.429 million – 23,000 outpatient services. The annual provision of services \$2.847 million – 875 inpatients.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
◆ Bankstown Community Mental Health Services and Inpatient Unit (\$5 million); ◆ Campbelltown Inpatient Mental Health Services (\$2.4 million); and ◆ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (\$1.14 million).	Bankstown Community, the annual provision of services \$2.346 million – 23,700 out-patient services. Bankstown Inpatient Unit, the annual provision of services \$2.474 million – 608 inpatients. The annual provision of services \$2.321 million – 540 inpatients. The annual provision of services \$1.416 million – 22.1% growth from the previous year.
\$1 million will be spent on services and programs through the Adult Mental Health Teaching and Research Unit.	Adult Mental Health services \$875,000 – 10.2% growth from the previous year; and Teaching and research \$971,000 – 55.4% growth from the previous year.
\$14 million will be spent State-wide for suicide prevention programs, of which a component will be allocated to Western Sydney.	These programs were funded with \$15 million. The programs focus on all age groups, especially young people, people in rural areas and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Its emphasis is on raising awareness, prevention and early intervention.
Aged Care in Western Sydney will receive over \$31 million in 1998-99 including: ◆ \$9.6 million for Braeside Hospital, Fairfield; ◆ \$4.1 million for Carrington Centennial Nursing Home; ◆ \$2.7 million capital works for Queen Victoria Nursing Home at Picton; ◆ over \$6 million in Bankstown for the Geriatric and Rehabilitation Inpatient Service; ◆ \$1 million operating costs for Geriatric Assessment Teams; ◆ \$487,000 for Pain Management Service at Nepean Hospital; ◆ \$145,000 operating costs for Blue Mountains Aged Care Assessment Team; and ◆ \$1.5 million operating costs for the Camden Aged Care and Rehabilitation Inpatient Service.	Aged Care services were allocated the following in 1998-99 including: \$9.5 million operating costs. \$3.4 million operating costs. \$1.9 million was expended on this \$7.6 million facility in 1998-99, which was commissioned in October 1998. \$4.615 million. From July 1998 to December 1998, 4,593 assessments were performed. This was a marginal increase compared to the previous six month period. There has been a marginal decrease in average waiting times for aged care assessment in the quarter October-December 1998. \$0.3 million. This program is ongoing. This additional provision for operating costs is an ongoing commitment. \$1.325 million was allocated in 1998-99.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
Operating costs of \$1.5 million per annum for a new service at Cabramatta, for a mobile unit and needle exchanges and an Adult Detoxification Program.	The facility provides a specialised drug and alcohol team, comprising medical and ancillary staff, health educators, drug and alcohol workers, counsellors, a service co-ordinator and administrative staff. It operates a mobile/fixed site needle and syringe program, a referral service, a home detoxification service and disposal project. The 1998-99 capital expenditure for the Fairfield Detoxification Service was \$3.2 million out of a total project budget of \$3.7 million. The project was commissioned in March 1999. Operating funds of \$1.1 million have been allocated for 1998-99. The Drug Intervention Service at Cabramatta is fully operational, with an operating budget of \$770,000 in 1998-99.
19 new ambulance vehicles will be provided for Western Sydney as part of the \$24 million upgrade of the State's Ambulance Service fleet.	Twenty additional ambulance vehicles will have been brought into service in Western Sydney before 30 June 1999.
<i>Education and Training</i> The Department of Education and Training will continue to implement its Computers in Schools Policy.	Schools in Western Sydney received \$37.1 million to acquire desktop, notebook or fileserver computers. Internet equipment to the value of \$1 million has been provided for teaching and learning activities. A grant of \$4.3 million has also been provided to schools in Western Sydney for computer coordinators and the acquisition of additional technology support, services or networking to complement the implementation of other facets of the Computers in Schools Policy. All Government schools in the State are connected to the Internet. Over the past four years, the equivalent of 90,000 multi-media computers have been provided to schools, reducing the computer to student ratio in Government schools to approximately 1:8. The total estimated expenditure for training programs to support the Computers in Schools Policy in Western Sydney Region is \$1.627 million. The funding provides training to teachers through the Technology in Teaching and Learning program. A further 500 teachers within the Region will receive a one day university based "Introduction to the Internet" training program.
It is expected that over \$17 million will be provided in 1998-99 to Western Sydney families as part of the Back to School Allowance.	Over \$17 million in Back-to-School Allowance was distributed to families in Western Sydney to help them in meeting the costs of schooling their children.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
\$19.2 million is to be provided for literacy programs in Western Sydney schools as part of the Literacy Support Program, of which a significant component is the Reading Recovery Program.	An increase of 18.8 Reading Recovery teaching positions were allocated for the region in 1998, making a total of 100.8 positions since 1996. Seven Reading Recovery tutors train teachers in Western Sydney and five Reading Recovery teacher training centres have been established. It is anticipated that 1,800 students from 180 primary schools in the region will benefit through participation in the Reading Recovery program. The program shows consistently high levels of success as measured by the proportion of students returning to the normal grade level for reading on completion of the program.
\$7.4 million will be provided to some 155 schools in Western Sydney in 1998-99, within the Disadvantaged Schools Program.	Representatives of the staff and parents of the 155 Disadvantaged Schools Program schools in Western Sydney participated in two program support and review meetings during 1998. These involved networks of schools collaboratively reviewing the effectiveness of their literacy programs and provided training and development on key issues. Approximately 95 percent of participants at these network meetings rated the process as satisfactory or better in assisting them to improve the literacy outcomes of the students at Disadvantaged Schools Program schools.
The Student Assistance Scheme provides financial support to those students whose families are in greatest need.	More than \$1.2 million was be distributed to schools in Western Sydney to support students.
Over \$6 million will be allocated across the State in 1989-99 to assist disadvantaged young people by improving their literacy, numeracy and self esteem in programs which include Helping Early Leavers Program, Circuit Breaker, Time Out and Koori Youth Programs.	It is anticipated that over 1,000 disadvantaged youth will be assisted by youth programs in Western Sydney. Assistance is provided to youth at risk of dropping out of school and to those who left school early, with support and training for them to explore options in further education and employment.
The Student Language Study in Overseas Countries Program, in 1998, supports 93 students from Western Sydney schools.	It is estimated that approximately 125 students will receive financial support to study languages overseas during 1998-99.
\$2.1 million funding will be allocated in 1998-99 under the Local Vocational Education and Training in Schools Committees Program.	The Local Vocational Education and Training in Schools Committees are part of the Joint Secondary Schools TAFE Program. These committees are responsible for the development of strategic plans for 1999.
Over \$2 million will be provided in 1998 under the Joint Secondary Schools TAFE Program.	\$2 million is distributed to schools in Western Sydney through the Local Vocational Education and Training in Schools Committees. The Joint Secondary Schools TAFE Program enables school students to achieve a TAFE vocational credential with pathways to further study and employment while also gaining credit for the Higher School Certificate. Students may also be eligible for continuing student status in TAFE after they leave school. In 1998 there were 3,881 government school students who completed a Joint Secondary Schools TAFE Program course in Western Sydney.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
Women 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; and ◆ improving the health and quality of life of women in New South Wales.	The outcomes from adopting a whole of government approach to these key areas include: ◆ a Violence Prevention Strategy, violence prevention specialist positions established in Western Sydney; ◆ the Pay Equity Inquiry investigating the undervaluing of skills in occupations in which women predominate such as hairdressing, outwork and nursing; and ◆ greater awareness of the health benefits of regular physical activity. The Department for Women has identified two emerging concerns of women, accessible and safe transport and affordable childcare. Planning advisory groups are developing responses to these concerns. The Transport Planning Advisory Group developed a pilot project "Out and About" in Fairfield to improve transport routes, time-tabling, ticketing policies and safety for women using public transport in that area. The Department for Women assisted in conducting the Australis Self Made Girl Workshop in March 1999 in Parramatta. The program aims to encourage school age girls to consider establishing their own businesses as a career option. The Department for Women has seconded an officer to the Office of Western Sydney to assist in integrating women's issues into the initiatives of the Office.
In 1998-99 \$1 million will be provided across the State under the NSW Women's Grants Program.	In 1998-99, a total of \$242,581 was allocated to 10 projects in Western Sydney. This represents 24.5 percent of the total 1998-99 Grants Program funding. Projects funded included: Burnside Campbelltown, to provide an intensive group program for women and their school age children escaping domestic violence; Ettinger House, Fairfield, to develop a range of strategies to assist older women using bus transport; Friends of STARTTS, Carramar, to assist refugee women achieve successful settlement; Women's Legal Resources Centre, Harris Park, to develop resources to conduct workshops with young Aboriginal women on legal issues; and Continence Foundation of NSW, Parramatta, to increase awareness and knowledge of prevention of incontinence in post-partum women.
Funds provided in 1998-99 to enhance the level of Women's Health in Western Sydney, include:	

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
◆ \$3.2 million for the establishment of the NSW Breast Cancer Institute at Westmead; ◆ \$1.3 million for Cervical Screening; ◆ \$1.2 million per annum for Gynaecology and Oncology Services at Westmead, including \$275,000 for the establishment of a MidLink Menopause Clinic; and ◆ \$682,000 to fund counselling services at the Liverpool and Wilma Women's Health Centres.	A \$3.3 million Breast Cancer Centre of Excellence, including \$759,000 for a Breastscreen State Co-ordination Unit, is to be established. Final costs and the construction period are being evaluated. In the period July to December 1998, Breastscreen Western screened 28,786 women, over 50 percent of whom were aged between 50 and 69 years. The cost of screening services in Western Sydney is \$3.5 million per annum. The total expenditure in the region was approximately \$2.1 million which included State co-ordination of the program plus promotion, marketing and education within Western Sydney. Funds have been applied to General Practitioner, Community, Caravan Park and Vietnamese Women's Screening projects. Western Sydney Area Health Service screening rates for women aged between 20 and 69 for the last two years was 57.7% of the population. The rate of technically unacceptable screens for the same period was 2.23% of all screens. In 1998, the Gynaecology and Oncology Services Program delivered 308 cases of which 276 were surgical patients. In the same period, the Midlink Menopause Service held 90 clinics involving 439 patients. These health centres continue to provide counselling, naturopathy, medical and health promotion services to women in the Liverpool and Macarthur areas. Women seek help regarding domestic violence, stress, pregnancy, menopause, sexuality and a range of other issues. In 1998-99, the South Western Sydney Area Health Service allocated \$427,000 to the Liverpool Women's Health Centre and \$277,000 to the Wilma Women's Centre.
Other programs which will assist women in Western Sydney in 1998-99 include: ◆ the Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program – priorities will be to raise awareness amongst non-English speaking background women of the availability of services and to establish new schemes in areas of high need; and ◆ joint Commonwealth/State funding for refuges for women escaping domestic violence under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program;	The Legal Aid Commission manages this Program within Western Sydney at Bankstown, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Liverpool/Fairfield, Macarthur, Parramatta and Penrith. The Commission is currently conducting a media campaign to raise awareness of the availability of services. A 1998 independent evaluation stated "the Program has followed its objectives faithfully and met its goals with a high level of success.....Schemes appear to have developed a positive profile within the communities they serve and scheme staff are generally well regarded as professional and hard working." The majority of clients surveyed (97%) reported that the Program had made a positive difference to their situation. The 1998-99 capital and recurrent budget for this program is \$5.238 million.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
<i>Services for children, families, older people and people with special needs</i> The combined operating budget for the three Area Offices of the Department of Community Services 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. Major initiatives conducted or funded by the Department include: ◆ child protection programs; ◆ substitute care programs; ◆ adoption; ◆ family support programs; ◆ children's services; ◆ provision of community resources; ◆ the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program; and Families First Program will provide \$1.35 million to the Department of Community Services and the Office of Children and Young People in 1998-99.	The Department of Community Services (DoCS) projected operating budget for Western Sydney is \$177.5 million. This includes the funds provided to community organisations, as well as for the services directly provided by DoCS. A further \$3 million is for capital works. Total funding to community organisations for 1998-99 is \$1.074 million. Burnside has developed a New Parents Information Network in Bidwell and Mt Druitt which aims to break the cyclical effect of destructive family behaviour. Total funding to community organisations in Western Sydney for 1998-99 was \$16.474 million. Baptist and Marist Community Services are funded to provide short term intensive assistance to children with high support needs who require accommodation out-of-home at Greystanes, Blacktown and Kings Langley. Cost: \$1.257 million. The Adoptions Branch, based in Parramatta, offers a State-wide service. State funding to community organisations for 1998-99 is \$6.210 million. State funding to community organisations for 1998-99 is \$18.472 million. State funding to community organisations for 1998-99 is \$12.199 million. State funding to community organisations for 1998-99 is \$18.326 million. The partnership with the Western Area Community Housing to improve the support to young homeless people moving from crisis accommodation to independent living is one example in Western Sydney. South West Sydney will be one of the first localities in New South Wales to benefit from this preventative approach to assisting new mothers and families. Funding for services will commence on 1 July 1999.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
\$500,000 will be allocated to a pilot for the Schools as Community Centres Program in 1998-99, of which approximately \$125,000 of the expenditure will occur in Western Sydney.	The Schools as Community Centres Program has been successful in producing the following results: ◆ increasing enrolments in the transition-to-school programs; ◆ in developing strategies for Aboriginal families and workers to meet family needs; ◆ increasing the level of age-appropriate immunisation; ◆ increased emergent literacy and cooperative behaviours in children; ◆ increased inter-agency planning and cooperation; ◆ families taking joint action to address community needs; and ◆ increased referrals to local services.
\$500,000 in 1998-99 is being provided for the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP) in 1999 and will include grants under the Healthy Ageing Grants Program. Western Sydney organisations will receive some of these grants.	Achievement include: ◆ establishment of the IYOP Secretariat; ◆ funding to the Council on the Ageing NSW to support the non-Government response to IYOP.; ◆ \$170,000 for community grants; ◆ publication of a IYOP community information kit; ◆ development of a school website.
From 1998-99, an additional \$350,000 per annum will be provided to allow continuation of the Seniors Information Service.	The Seniors Information Service is a State-wide one-stop telephone service for older people, their families, carers, and professionals. Calls to the service increased by over 100 percent in the twelve month period to January 1999. During that time, 32,462 calls were made to the service, with 6,805 of those calls made from Western Sydney. The majority of inquiries concerned concessions, leisure, health, housing, and community services. A recent survey of service users found that 95 percent of callers were satisfied with the service.
The Ageing and Disability Department will undertake demonstration projects in 1998-99 to improve access to public transport for people with a disability and older people, at a cost of \$100,000.	◆ There are three wheel chair accessible buses operating dedicated services in Mt Druitt. ◆ In Fairfield, services have been altered so that pedestrians do not have to negotiate difficult areas. ◆ A culturally specific service for the Vietnamese community has been trialed. ◆ All Liverpool bus services are now "Hail'n'ride". Health system patients are booked according to transport availability, with more services to the hospital. ◆ Holroyd has a flexible door to door bus service for older people, pre-schoolers and youth late at night.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
\$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 to Western Sydney.	Approximately \$2.663 million was spent on permanent accommodation and support for 26 Western Sydney people with a disability, identified as being in crisis.
\$235,000 will be made available to fund an Intensive Family Support project for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with disabilities and their families.	This project has been approved for the Gilgai Aboriginal Centre Inc. and its aim is to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with disabilities remain living with their families and their communities. The service is being established in the Nepean area.
An additional \$4.6 million per annum will be provided from 1998-99 for Post School Options across the State .	This initiative has been completed, enabling 320 new Post School Options placements, commenced in February 1999 across the State. A total of \$169,500 was approved for the school leavers in Western Sydney.
An additional \$2.8 million will be allocated to the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program in 1998-99. It is expected that the 1998-99 recurrent HACC allocation to the South West Sydney Area , will be increased beyond the previous years allocation of almost \$550,000.	Sixteen new services have been created with HACC growth funding in Western Sydney in 1998-99. New service types include home help, home maintenance and modification services, transport services, neighbour aid, community options services and respite services, particularly for Aboriginal people, people from non-English speaking background and those with dementia. The recurrent Home and Community Care allocation for the South Western Sydney Area Health Service for 1998-99 is \$3.625 million, an increase of \$532,000, or 17.2%, from the previous year. In 1998-99 recurrent funding has been allocated for enhancing viability in existing services in Cumberland/Prospect (\$80,856), Nepean (\$36,856) and South Western Sydney (\$49,972).
The Police and Community Training Program , is sponsored by the Police Service and the Ethnic Affairs Commission at a cost of \$480,000 over three years .	The program, jointly sponsored by the Police and the Ethnic Affairs Commission, is in its third year and operates in Western Sydney at Cabramatta, Bankstown and Fairfield.
\$2.4 million has been allocated for the Joint Investigation Teams at Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith, a project aimed at improving the investigation of child abuse allegations and to minimise distress to child abuse victims .	This initiative received a \$2.4 million operating budget. From January to December 1998, cases investigated were Liverpool, 405; Penrith, 370; and Parramatta, 235. As a result, 144 people were charged and 103 Apprehended Violence Orders were taken out to protect children.
Over \$1 million will be provided for the Youth Justice Conferencing Program in Western Sydney in 1998-99, with the aim of directing minor offenders away from the court system.	Four Conference Administrators are employed at Blacktown, Campbelltown, Werrington and Fairfield. As at 31 January 1999 the Department of Juvenile Justice had accepted 288 referrals for conferences for Western Sydney young people and 168 conferences were held for juvenile offenders from Western Sydney.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
\$415,000 will be spent in 1998-99 on the Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Program by the Department of Fair Trading.	This represents a 24 percent increase in funding for this Program's Western Sydney services. The Western Sydney Tenants Service and the South West Tenants' Advice Service provides information, advice and advocacy services to tenants and offers community education seminars on tenancy issues.
Financial Counselling will be funded to the extent of \$284,000 in Western Sydney in 1998-99.	\$313,470 was allocated in Western Sydney for funding the Credit Counselling Program and the NSW Financial Counselling Trust Fund. Funding was provided for financial counselling and community education to Bankstown Family Support, the Christian Community Aid Service at Granville, Westmead and Auburn, CreditLine at Penrith, Hawkesbury Quakers Hill, Macarthur and Fairfield, the Salvation Army at Mt Druitt and Parramatta and the Sydney City Mission at Campbelltown and Green Valley.
Transport Assistance Programs includes funding for half-fare concessions for pensioners, transport subsidies and assistance for half-fare taxi transport for persons with severe and/or permanent disabilities.	\$229 million was allocated in 1998-99 State-wide, for pensioner travel. A significant proportion of this funding will impact in Western Sydney. The Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme was allocated \$9.22 million in 1998-99 and \$2.128 million will be spent on the NSW Community Transport Program.
The Government 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 registration and dental care.	Integral Energy provided \$9.7 million in pensioner rebates to 116,070 customers in the Western Sydney region. The Department of Local Government forecasts total subsidies of \$12 million were provided in Western Sydney in 1998-99 to grant relief from shire and municipal rates to eligible pensioners. The subsidies reimburse local government up to 50% of rebates given to pensioners as a reduction in rates.
Housing In 1998-99 the Government will allocate approximately \$56.9 million for the construction or purchase of housing for Western Sydney people on low incomes and for people with special needs. Projects for the latter group include expenditure of: ◆ \$340,000 in Blacktown; ◆ \$320,000 in the Blue Mountains; ◆ \$340,000 in Holroyd; ◆ \$546,000 in Parramatta; ◆ \$200,000 in Penrith for people with disabilities; and ◆ \$650,000 for aged residents at Holroyd.	The 1998-99 allocation for public housing in Western Sydney was approximately \$68.4 million. A major urban regeneration program was been achieved under the Fairfield East Estate Project conducted by the Department of Housing. Two hundred and fifty tenants were relocated and the estate was demolished due to the complex social and design issues as well as the increased levels of dissatisfaction and concerns expressed by residents and community agencies. The Department of Housing's Western Sydney Region has underway its housing procurement process for people with specific needs and the anticipated operational date is the end of June 1999. Projects will improve the supported housing options for people with intellectual disabilities in the Blue Mountains (2 projects totalling \$500,000) and people with mental illness in Parramatta and Blacktown (3 projects totalling \$700,000).

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
	In 1998-99 the Department's Southern Sydney Region constructed 6 units for supported accommodation in partnership with the Spastic Centre of NSW (\$0.5 million) and purchased units under the Mental Health Supported Housing Initiatives Program (\$0.7 million) in partnership with the Bankstown Area Mental Health Team. The Office of Community Housing funded the provision of 1,134 dwellings in Western Sydney in 1998-99, for people on low incomes and for people with special needs. The six housing organisations who are the primary providers of community housing are the Wentworth Area Community Housing, the Hume Community Housing Association Ltd, Argyle Community Housing, the Canterbury Bankstown Community Housing Co-operative, the Western Suburbs Community Housing Co-operative and the Women's Housing Company.
	A total of \$12.37 million was approved for these organisations under the 1998/99 Housing Association and Co-operatives Program for the acquisition and redevelopment of 86 properties. This process will increase the supply of housing association stock and will further improve the financial viability of the organisations. Under the Community Tenancy Scheme the above organisations received funding in 1998/99 of \$2.6 million to manage a total of 470 leasehold properties of which 31 are specifically identified for young people. A total of 185 dwellings are provided in Western Sydney for short to medium term accommodation under the Crisis Accommodation Program. In 1998/99 funding for this program was allocated to improve the quality of existing stock and to give opportunities for service providers to rearrange or relocate accommodation according to need. There are currently 37 units of accommodation managed by 7 housing co-operatives in Western Sydney. In 1998/99, \$1 million has been approved for the purchase of an additional 4 dwellings. In 1998/99 funding of \$1.5 million was approved for the purchase of 37 units of accommodation under the Special Projects Fund. This program aims to attract additional resources for housing assistance through partnerships with non government organisations.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
An additional \$10 million will be spent in 1998-99 to implement initiatives aimed at increasing the supply of affordable housing, some of which will involve Western Sydney locations.	The Affordable Housing Project is a two year project to develop new partnership models in the private sector, local government and community agencies to improve the provision of affordable housing. Funds are being used to establish an Affordable Housing Advisory Service and demonstration projects for the delivery of affordable housing. An Advisory Group has been established to guide the project and provide strategic advice to the Government on the implementation of the strategy.
Over \$24.4 million will be spent for capital improvements to significantly upgrade the existing social housing stock and \$36.07 million for maintenance and repairs of public housing in the region.	In 1998-99, the Department of Housing's Western Sydney Region was allocated \$20.6 million for repairs and maintenance of properties and \$17.5 million for upgrading and major refurbishment works. In the same period, the Southern Sydney Region has been allocated \$5.8 million in 1998-99 for repairs and maintenance of properties and \$2.7 million for upgrading and major refurbishment works in the Bankstown Local Government area. The South Western Region was allocated \$3 million for upgrading and \$9.7 million for repairs and maintenance. A special allocation of \$1.1 million for refurbishment of dwellings will also be expended in 1998-99, with \$350,000 spent in Villawood East.
Expenditure in Western Sydney in 1998-99 under the Neighbourhood Improvement Program for public housing estates includes \$4 million allocated to the Bidwell estate, \$15 million to the Airds and Macquarie Fields estates and \$1 million for the Mount Pleasant estate.	The Department of Housing's Western Sydney Region has initiatives totalling \$5.9 million in 1998-99 under this program to continue work in the Bidwell estate, to commence work in Cranebrook and carry out planning work in the Toongabbie estate. The program aims to improve the physical and social amenity of the Department's large estate areas. The South Western Sydney Region was allocated \$12.7 million in 1998-99 under the program to target the estates of Macquarie Fields and Airds and to improve housing and quality of life to people living within public housing estates.
\$2.07 million will be spent over the next three years to upgrade Aboriginal housing in Western Sydney.	The Housing Aboriginal Communities Program provides rental housing for Aboriginal people in housing stock managed by Aboriginal housing providers. Under the program in 1996-97 and 1997-98, 20 units were allocated to Aboriginal organisations with a further 8 units to be acquired in 1998-99. The Department of Housing manages some 707 dwellings occupied by Aboriginal people in Western Sydney under the Housing for Aboriginal Program and a repairs, maintenance and upgrading program is planned over the next 5 years, estimated to cost \$7.07 million.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
<i>Cabramatta Project</i> Funding of \$180,000 will be provided to the Cabramatta Project in 1998-99.	The Premier's Department appointed a senior manager in Cabramatta to ensure that all Government Departments, the community and business sectors in the area are working together to improve the level of government services. Additional funds were provided through the Mainstreet program to employ a Tourism Development Officer. The project is a partnership with Fairfield City Council and has been in place since September 1997. The major project initiatives have been in the areas of crime prevention, employment, and tourism development. The Government provided a number of services and programs under this project: ◆ A new policing operation was implemented in Cabramatta involving the deployment of an additional 40 police officers to patrol the Cabramatta business district. A new mobile anti-drug command post was set up by police resulting in a substantial reduction in illicit drug dealing and a reported increase in perceptions of safety and security in the business district area. There was a considerable increase in the level of arrests for drug related offences. ◆ A purpose built 20 bed detoxification unit was completed at Fairfield Hospital at a cost of \$3.32M. This is the first detoxification facility for young adolescents and adults in south western Sydney. It will ensure that young people involved with illicit drugs have an opportunity to obtain treatment and rehabilitation. ◆ The Department of Urban Affairs and Planning allocated funding to the amount of \$200,000 for three projects in the Cabramatta area, targeting the issues of youth employment and training.
<i>Sport and Recreation</i> \$200,000 has been allocated in 1998-99 for the Western Sydney Academy of Sport and the South West Sydney Academy of Sport.	Sports programs for the Academies and participating athlete numbers are track and field (65), soccer (86), softball (46), netball (42) and, at the Western Sydney Academy, rowing (13). There are 39 coaches involved in the sports programs and support services to athletes include nutrition, fitness testing, sport psychology, sports science testing, drugs in sport information, time management, goal setting and injury prevention and management.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
Programs conducted by the Department of Sport and Recreation include expenditure of \$346,000 for 1998-99 for Swimsafe, Holiday Sport, Introductory Opportunities, Volunteer Involvement Program, Aquafitness, Fitness Leaders and Austswim Accreditation and Sport Development.	Programs and services throughout Western Sydney involved expenditure of approximately \$309,000 in 1998-99.
<i>Public Safety</i> A number of Police Service programs are underway to ensure a safe environment for the people of Western Sydney such as \$2 million for the continued employment of Community Safety Officers and Youth Liaison Officers.	In February 1998 there were 2,753 police officers stationed in Western Sydney. This had been increased by 177 to 2,870 by January 1999. The Police Service continued to employ police officers as Community Safety Officers and Youth Liaison Officers in each of the region's 19 Local Area Commands.
\$4.25 million has been allocated across the State to the Safer Communities Action Plan initiative and a Community Safety Officer will be located in every Local Area Command in Western Sydney (20 Officers).	Safety Audits continued to be conducted in all Local Area Commands under the Safer Communities Action Plan.
<i>Supporting cultural diversity</i> The Police Service has six administrative officers employed as Ethnic Community Liaison Officers, under the Ethnic Community Liaison Officers Program, in Western Sydney, at a cost of \$240,000.	The six Ethnic Community Liaison Officers in Western Sydney are employed at Cabramatta (3), Fairfield (2) and Bankstown (1).
Over \$200,000 will be provided in Western Sydney under the Ethnic Affairs Commission grants program as well as \$120,000 under the Community Partnership Scheme.	\$179,500 was approved in 1998-99 from the 1999 Ethnic Affairs Commission's Community Development Grants Program for projects in Western Sydney designed to assist in promoting the participation of people of ethnic background in all aspects of community life.
The Government provides funds to resource the Western Sydney Regional Advisory Committee, which provides feedback to the Ethnic Affairs Commission.	The Western Sydney Regional Advisory Committee advises the Commission on ethnic affairs issues in the region. It is comprised of six community members and five members representing government agencies.
\$4.6 million will be provided across the State in 1998-99 for interpreter and translation services.	\$5.3 million was allocated State-wide for these services.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
Over \$86 million is included in the 1998-99 budget of the Department of Education and Training under the Non-English Speaking Background (NESB) Program. In addition, funding of over \$3.3 million will be provided in 1998-99 to implement the Multicultural Education Plan 1998-2001. A major proportion of these programs will be implemented in Western Sydney.	Students and their families in Western Sydney benefited from: 8 Intensive English Centres and 432 full time equivalent ESL positions in 325 schools to support ESL and English literacy development of NESB students; 7 centres of the Saturday School of Community Languages; 9 full-time Community Information Officers (NESB) to strengthen links between schools and their culturally and linguistically diverse school community members; relief days to support training in ESL and anti-racism; and total funding of \$270,560 for school-based multicultural targeted projects in anti-racism, ESL Organisation, Multicultural Education, NESB Parent Participation, and for the use of interpreters. NESB students' performance in the Basic Skills Test has been found to be, on average, just below the mean for all students in both literacy and numeracy. The performance in both areas has improved over time to the extent that there is now little difference in mean NESB performance compared with State means. New arrivals with little or no English do not sit for the Basic Skills Test. NESB students' performance at the English Language and Literacy Assessment pilot program in 1997, where one or more in the home spoke English, scored on average about 2 percentage points less than the overall pilot group average on reading, language and writing, compared to about six to seven percentage points less where English is not spoken in the home.
Over \$1 million is provided in 1998-99 to fund 18 additional community language positions in schools across the State. 37 of the 78 full-time positions allocated, are in primary schools in Western Sydney.	Of the additional 18 full time equivalent (FTE) community language positions allocated to primary schools in 1998-99, 16.6 were allocated to schools in Western Sydney. This makes a total of 133.6 FTE community language positions in 77 schools allocated to Western Sydney under the Community Languages Program. The Bilingual Research Project is tracking students who receive additional bilingual assistance, for the measurement period from early entry into Kindergarten (1999) through to the Basic Skills Test in Year 3. All other programs are monitored by the schools with outcomes acknowledged in school reports.
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.	This is a \$2.1 million capital project over 5 years. The projected visitor numbers to the Museum are 10,000 per year.
Approximately \$2 million will be allocated in 1998-99 in Western Sydney under the Ministry for the Arts cultural grants program, including:	Approximately \$1.8 million in grants will be allocated in Western Sydney in 1998-99. This does not include grants to Sydney-based organisations who devolve funding to other areas.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
\$100,000 for the Western Sydney Regional Arts Program; and \$100,000 for the Western Sydney Performing Arts Fund.	\$101,000 has been approved for 12 projects for 1999. To February 1999, \$63,000 had been approved for 6 projects.
<i>Community development</i> In 1998-99 it is expected that funding will be provided to the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme and the Macarthur Area Assistance Scheme to the extent of around \$2.9 million.	In 1998-99, the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme received 354 applications with a total value of \$11,842,114. The Western Sydney Advisory Committee recommended 61 new community development projects and 23 second year projects, with a total value of \$2.7 million. The projects are within the areas of Safety; Employment; Isolation/Access; Coordination, Information and Communication; Programs/Facilities for Children & Youth; Promoting Cultural Tolerance; and Organisational Development. In the 1998/99 funding round the Macarthur Area Assistance Scheme received 45 applications with a total value of \$1,101,261. The Macarthur Regional Advisory Committee recommended 13 new community development projects and 4 second year projects with a total value of \$1.3 million. The projects are within the areas of transport to allow access to organised activities and services; youth; and support for families with children.
BETTER GOVERNMENT SERVICES <i>Transport</i> The Government has allocated funding in 1998-99 for better services in Western Sydney as follows: ◆ The Greater Western Sydney Transport Strategy implementation; ◆ \$6.5 million for the Liverpool-Parramatta Rapid Bus Only Transitway; ◆ \$18.5 million over two years for the Liverpool Interchange and Station upgrades; ◆ \$13.1 million for the Richmond Line upgrade;	The Government released Action for Transport 2010, an integrated transport plan for Sydney over the next 10 years, aimed at the provision of railways, rapid bus only transitways, roads and cycleways to improve transport into and across Western Sydney. The construction of the first 2.8 kilometres of the transitway, plus 3 stations, is due for completion by December 1999. The total cost of the transitway is \$200 million and it is estimated that \$15 million will be spent in 1998-99. In 1998-99 expenditure on the Liverpool Station upgrade and the Liverpool Interchange will be \$4.7 million and \$4 million, respectively. The project will be commissioned in December 1999 with \$9.8 million spent in 1998-99.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
◆ \$3.2 million for the Bankstown Station upgrade; ◆ \$12 million for the Lidcombe Shuttle, a dedicated rail link from Lidcombe to Olympic Park Station; ◆ East Hills Line Amplification at a cost of \$84 million over five years; ◆ \$50 million will be provided across the State in 1998-99 under the four year \$170 million Public Transport Infrastructure Improvement Program;	Forecast expenditure is \$2.5 million in 1998-99 and completion is expected by June 1999. The project was commissioned in time for the 1999 Easter Show and expenditure in 1998-99 was \$11 million. The Rail Access Corporation commenced this project in February 1999 with expenditure of \$7.5 million forecast for 1998-99. Completion of the project is expected in 2003. The Department of Transport allocated \$14.895 million in 1998-99 in Western Sydney. Major works include: ◆ Campbelltown Station Interchange and carpark project; ◆ Merrylands Interchange (completed); and ◆ Wentworthville Carpark – Development Application submitted for 400 spaces.
◆ Easy access facilities at Springwood and Bankstown Stations will be completed under the \$86.5 million Easy Access Stations initiative scheduled for completion in 2002-03; ◆ Security upgrade of CityRail stations at a cost of \$55 million is to commence in 1998-99 (includes every station in Western Sydney); ◆ Employment of security guards on every CityRail train from 7pm; ◆ The Government is continuing to provide funding for both the Pensioner Excursion Ticket and the Pensioner Half Fare Concession; and ◆ A total of \$142 million will be used to fund the \$1 State Rail and State Transit Pensioner Excursion Ticket.	33 stations throughout the CityRail network are being or have been upgraded to make it easier for people with mobility problems to move around. Station upgrades with the provision of easy access facilities include: ◆ Springwood Station is due for completion in June 1999 and \$1.2 million out of a project cost of \$2.6 million, will be spent in 1998-99; and ◆ Facilities at Bankstown Station are also due for completion in June 1999 and \$2.5 million of a total cost of \$3.3 million will be spent in 1998-99. The program involves the installation of closed circuit television, security lighting, public announcement facilities and emergency help points at 301 CityRail station. It will include the provision of security facilities in commuter carparks and interchanges. The total cost of the program is estimated at \$107 million. This initiative, for the safety of more than 100,000 rail passengers in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong who travel up to 300 trips every night of the week will cost \$18.2 million in 1998-99. CityRail surveys show customer satisfaction with safety after dark on trains has more than doubled since June 1998 with the introduction of two security guards on every CityRail train after 7pm. \$229 million was allocated in 1998-99 for pensioner travel. \$142 million was allocated in 1998-99.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
<i>Fair Trading and consumer protection</i> \$1.35 million will be provided in Western Sydney in 1998-99 for the Residential Tenancies Tribunal.	Of the 41,000 applications received by the Tribunal during 1998, 37 percent were received from the Western Sydney region. The Tribunal currently hears applications in Penrith, Parramatta, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Liverpool and Katoomba. To mid-February 1999, 2,830 applications have been heard at Penrith, 1,376 at Blacktown and 1,547 at Campbelltown. The Tribunal has established a Western Sydney Operations Committee which consults with representative groups to ensure the views of landlords, tenants and agents are reflected in Tribunal procedures including listing of matters and hearing times.
The Register of Encumbered Vehicles will spend \$40,000 on an advertising campaign to provide information on unpaid debt on second hand vehicles.	The first half of the campaign, which ran from June to November 1998, included radio and cinema advertising and the second half commenced in February 1999.
<i>Justice</i> \$2 million has been allocated in 1998-99 to construct a new Children's Court at Campbelltown.	The Children's Court ensures adult offenders are separated from young persons attending court for welfare related matters, and those on criminal charges. The Court includes a separate entrance, discrete waiting areas, parents' room, interview rooms and registry facilities. It provides adequate, complying accommodation for the hearing of care and custody matters. The complex was officially opened in March 1999.
A pilot program has been implemented to extend court sitting hours including night courts at Parramatta and Liverpool.	As part of an initiative to improve accessibility for clients, Local Courts conducted trials of extended hours services at Liverpool and Parramatta Local Courts between March and July 1998. Registry services, determinations of small claims matters by an assessor, and chamber magistrate appointments were available up until 8.30pm on Thursday evenings to take advantage offered by 'late night shopping'. At the conclusion of the pilot, extended services continued at the Parramatta Local Court. Information gained from an extensive client survey is being incorporated into the review of the operations and opening hours of the Parramatta extended registry which provides services to the public until 7pm each evening and to the Police Service up until 11pm.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
The Aboriginal Women's Legal Resources Centre will continue to be funded with \$200,000 allocated in 1998-99.	The Stanmore-based Centre, known as Wirringa Baiya, meaning "black women speaking" received funding in 1998-99 of \$204,600. The Centre's key objectives are to provide assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women throughout the State in gaining access to justice and to develop culturally appropriate models of community legal education. It provides information and education programs on issues such as domestic violence, custody access and protection of children.
In 1998-99, the Aboriginal Court Liaison Officer Program at Blacktown Court will cost \$32,000.	The appointment of an Aboriginal Court Liaison Officer has provided a single point of contact for Aboriginal clients and service providers, and establishes an invaluable linkage between the court and local Aboriginal people in trialing strategies to improve court services. The program provides direct support and assistance to Aboriginal people appearing at court, whether as defendants, victims of crime or witnesses.
Emergency Services During 1998-99, six new Greater Sydney Urban Fire Brigade Area stations will be constructed in Western Sydney at a capital cost of \$8.4 million with associated additional full year recurrent expenditure of \$4.1 million.	♦ Only two new stations are to be constructed in Western Sydney in 1998-99, at Rosemeadow and Narellan, at a capital cost of \$2.793 million and a full year recurrent expenditure of \$972,000. The construction of the remaining four facilities has not been possible due to protracted difficulties in acquiring suitable sites and the construction of these stations will occur in 1999-2000.
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.	In 1998-99 the total State-wide allocation to the Rural Fire Service was \$70.4 million. Twelve new tankers for use in Western Sydney are being built and it is anticipated that they will be in service by the end of June 1999. Subsidies towards the cost of construction of 5 Western Sydney brigade stations have been allocated to local Councils. The Councils are Penrith City, Hawkesbury Shire, Blue Mountains City, Blacktown City and Baulkham Hills Shire.
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. Funds will be provided as follows: ♦ \$1 million for partial completion of the study;	Funds to develop and implement strategies to address the risk from flooding are allocated by the New South Wales Government. Requests for Commonwealth funds to be made available for Western Sydney floodplain projects, have been unsuccessful. The Department of Land and Water Conservation is preparing a specification for a computerised flood information management system for the State Emergency Service, a regional road upgrade plan for flood evacuation routes for the Roads and Traffic Authority and a specification for a tailored regional public awareness program for the State Emergency Service.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
◆ \$3.5 million for evacuation route upgrades; ◆ \$850,000 for flood emergency planning; and	The Roads and Traffic Authority has commenced construction of upgrades on Londonderry Road. This is a primary evacuation route for Richmond and Londonderry. Other sites suitable for construction in the program are to be included where appropriate. The Department of Land and Water Conservation has transferred funds to the State Emergency Service to provide the necessary resources to review, rewrite and validate the Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Emergency Plans, review communication systems, improve operational capability for community safety and to initiate implementation of a computerised flood information management system to enhance response planning.
◆ \$500,000 for a public awareness program.	The Department of Land and Water Conservation has transferred funds to the State Emergency Service to enable the Service to commence preparing a specifically tailored regional public awareness program as part of the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain strategy. Western Sydney floodplain projects undertaken in 1998-99 include: ◆ Haslams Creek flood study, Auburn \$5,000; ◆ Haslams Creek Floodplain Management Study, Auburn \$40,000; ◆ Milperra voluntary purchase, Bankstown \$50,000; ◆ Milperra drain flood mitigation works, Bankstown \$67,000; ◆ East Hills flood mitigation works, Bankstown \$440,000; ◆ Camden Floodplain Management Study \$100,000; ◆ Campbelltown Floodplain Management Works \$450,000; ◆ Prospect Creek Floodplain Management Works, Fairfield \$500,000; ◆ Lower Cabramatta Creek Floodplain Management Works, Fairfield \$150,000; ◆ Upper Prospect Creek Floodplain Management Works, Fairfield \$40,000; ◆ Lower Prospect Creek Floodplain Management Works, Fairfield \$100,000; ◆ Lansvale voluntary purchase, Fairfield \$60,000; ◆ St Elmos Drain, Fairfield \$290,000; ◆ Hawkesbury Maintenance \$11,200; ◆ Cabramatta Creek Floodplain Management Study, Liverpool \$75,000; ◆ South Creek Floodplain Management Works, Liverpool \$287,000; and ◆ Moorebank voluntary purchase, Liverpool \$360,000.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
Waterways Authority The Authority prepared a package of initiatives to assist the boating public, including pensioner rebates on vessel registration. A significant strategy in the package is to increase patrol resources in regional NSW, including rivers in Western Sydney, at a cost of \$450,000 in 1998-99.	A pensioner rebate scheme of 50% on vessel registrations was implemented for eligible pensioners. Six additional Boating Service Officers were appointed across the State to increase patrol resources. The Hawkesbury-Nepean River now has a regular officer patrolling the waterway.
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT The Government will continue to implement its Air Quality Management Plan for NSW and in 1998-99 the Air Quality Monitoring Program will be provided with \$1.04 million in capital funding and \$440,000, recurrent funding.	The Environment Protection Authority's air quality monitoring in Western Sydney continued with expenditure of approximately \$1 million in 1998-99. The Government aims to improve air quality in Sydney by reduce the vehicle kilometres travelled (vkt) as follows: ◆ halting the growth in per capita vkt by 2011 ◆ halting the growth in total vkt by 2021.
An Air Toxic Study will be undertaken in 1998-99 across Sydney and in major regional centres at a cost of \$360,000, of which some 40% relates to Western Sydney.	The project commenced in 1998-99 following an initial pilot study. Currently in the instrument development and testing stage, it will run until completion in mid-2001.
The Sustainable Energy Development Authority will spend around \$150,000 implementing the first phase of the Energy Smart Homes Program in the region.	The first phase of the Energy Smart Homes project has seen 11 Western Sydney Councils join the program, with the potential to reduce almost 35,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum.
Capital investment associated with the Energy Smart Government Program in the region totals \$3.3 million.	This program is providing assistance to a number of organisations in Western Sydney to establish Energy Performance Contracts for efficiency upgrades. They include the South Western Sydney Area Health Service, the New Children's Hospital, Westmead and the Parklea Correctional Facility.
The Energy Smart Business Program assists companies to identify profitable energy efficiency improvements, lower operating costs, improve the quality of energy-derived services and reduce greenhouse emissions.	The Energy Smart Business Program has over 180 business partners with around 15 percent of these having operations in Western Sydney. These include Inghams Enterprises, MM Cables, Cerebos Foods, Club Marconi, Hardman Australia, and Fairfield City Council. All partners to the program are provided technical assistance to implement energy efficiency improvements. For example, AJ Bush and Sons at Rouse Hill, are converting a coal-fired boiler to natural gas which will prevent over 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being released to the atmosphere each year.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
◆ 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 including: ◆ Western Sydney Regional Park (Horsley Park) (\$1.8 million);	Land Acquisition Programs have been established for the Mulgoa Nature Reserve (\$1.3 million) and the Parramatta River Regional Park (\$2 million). Fire and Pest Management Programs have been established at: ◆ Mulgoa Nature Reserve (\$16,000 including a Bush Regeneration Program); ◆ Burratorang State Recreation Area (\$14,000); ◆ Nattai National Park and Nattai State Recreation Area (\$14,000); ◆ Thirlmere Lakes National Park (\$12,000); and ◆ Dharawal Nature Reserve (\$113,000 includes Park Establishment, Neighbour and Bush Regeneration Programs). Grand entrance gates to the Pimelia Picnic Area have been constructed. The Masterplan and Plan of Management for the Park have been completed. Information signs have been installed and work has commenced on a new Restwell Road entrance.
◆ Parramatta Park (\$1.3 million); ◆ Rouse Hill (\$700,000), Leacock (Casula) (\$270,000) and Parramatta River (\$477,000) Regional Parks; ◆ Scheyville National Park (\$390,000); and ◆ Castlereagh Nature Reserve (\$160,000).	Work on bush regeneration and erosion control has been undertaken and upgrades carried out on the Visitors Centre, office accommodation and the Pavilion area. Shelters, BBQs and new play equipment have been installed. The entrance to Sugarloaf Ridge Picnic Area has been upgraded. Rouse Hill Regional Park - improvements to picnic facilities and the car park and play equipment installed. A network of walking trails and cycle/roller blade tracks constructed. Leacock Regional Park - picnic shelters and BBQs installed and access improvements and walking track construction carried out. Interpretive artwork and bush regeneration undertaken. William Howe Regional Park (Narellan Vale) – plan of Management commenced and bush regeneration and walking track upgrades undertaken. A Park Establishment and Infrastructure Maintenance Program has been implemented. Park Establishment and Fire, Pest, Neighbour and Infrastructure Maintenance Programs have been implemented.
Bicentennial Park has received \$2 million in 1998-99 for access upgrades.	Bicentennial Park received funding of \$2 million in 1998-99 for access infrastructure refurbishment to improve pedestrian and wheelchair access from Concord West Railway Station through Bicentennial Park to Olympic Park. The project consists of two stages, with the first part to be completed during 1998-99.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
Mt Annan Botanic Gardens has been allocated \$400,000 for new visitor facilities and to improve roads, paths and retaining walls.	Expenditure is being incurred on the construction of toilet blocks (\$135,000) and playground equipment (\$200,000).
The Government will spend up to \$30 million in Western Sydney under the Sydney Region Development Fund in 1998-99. It is proposed to acquire 47 hectares at Cecil Park for the Western Sydney Regional Park and 307 hectares at Doonside for the Eastern Creek open space corridor. Other initiatives under the Fund include \$450,000 for the Metropolitan Greenspace Program and \$648,000 under the Bushcare Program.	The current projection of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning is that \$17.5 million is committed in 1998-99 to the purchase of open space in Western Sydney involving the 47 hectare site at Cecil Park for the Western Sydney Regional Park. Negotiations for the purchase of property involving a further estimated \$36 million are in progress, including 312 hectares of land at Doonside for the Eastern Creek Open Space Corridor. The Department estimates that \$9 million may be finalised in 1998/99 and the remaining \$27m in 1999/2000. Total expenditure in 1998/99 of \$26.5 million includes \$450,000 for grants under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program and \$648,000 under the Bushcare Program.
The Government is providing funds totalling \$250,000, matched by Parramatta City Council, for the preparation of a Regional Environmental Plan and Action Plan for Parramatta.	Submissions have been received and the Regional Environmental Plan is being finalised. It is expected that the Plan will be released in mid 1999.
A total of \$3.1 million has been allocated to the Western Sydney Waste Board and the Macarthur Waste Board to help in the implementation of waste plans.	The Western Sydney and Macarthur Waste Boards have, since July 1998, been implementing the comprehensive package of waste reduction programs contained in the respective regional waste plans. In total, \$6.6 million was allocated to both Boards in 1998-99. This was comprised of \$1.3 million for recurrent expenditure and \$5.3 million for undertaking waste reduction programs. The Waste Minimisation and Management Act 1995 committed NSW to achieve 60 percent reduction in waste by the end of 2000. The Waste Boards are due to submit reports on their waste plan achievements to the Minister for the Environment in September 1999, following completion of the first full year of the implementation of the plans. The Macarthur Waste Board recently undertook a trial of a household hazardous waste collection model which diverted over 9 tonnes of material such as paint, household chemicals, medicines and cleansers from landfill.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
The Department of Local Government and the Roads and Traffic Authority will continue the Blue Mountains Urban Run-off Control Program at a cost of \$5 million in 1998-99.	The purposes of the program are to: ◆ address environmental concerns such as soil erosion, siltation, seed disbursement and pollution of the natural water course; ◆ develop processes of integrated decision making and coordinated action between Council, State agencies and the community; ◆ establish effective and continuing management structures and operational practices to mitigate the damage caused to the natural environment of the Blue Mountains caused by urban run-off; and ◆ control stormwater impacts through dedicated capital works. Fifteen contracts, totalling \$3.3 million, were let across a number of sites, aimed to remove all weeds and assist the regeneration of native plants in the bushland. The program has funded approximately 13 kilometres of road sealing, with complementary drainage works, to lessen the severe environmental impact through sedimentation downstream. A number of environmental monitoring projects are underway to provide valuable data on the health of the catchment and data for future planning and modelling. These include water quality monitoring, weed mapping and bio indicator projects.
OLYMPICS BUDGET WESTERN SYDNEY <i>Western Sydney Venues</i> ◆ Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park ◆ Shooting Centre, Cecil Park ◆ Softball and Baseball Centre, Aquilina Reserve, Blacktown ◆ Cycling Velodrome, Bankstown	Completion scheduled for September 1999. Around \$25 million will be incurred during 1998-99. In addition to the Olympic facility, a large community park will be established for the enjoyment of the Western Sydney community. The facility is expected to be completed in late 1999. It is anticipated that \$21 million will be expended during 1998-99. In addition to being the Olympic Softball Centre, Aquilina Reserve will be the site for the second Baseball venue and a training facility for athletes. When completed in early 2000, it will be a permanent sporting legacy for Western Sydney. Approximately \$6 million will be spent in developing this site in 1998-99. Construction target completion date is September 1999. The facility will also be used for concerts and indoor sports such as volleyball and basketball, after the Olympic Games. \$26 million has been forecast to be spent during 1998-99.

1998-99 INITIATIVE	OUTCOME
◆ Slalom Canoe Centre, Penrith Lakes ◆ Media and Technical Officials' Villages	The canoe course is expected to be completed in mid 1999. \$6 million will be expended on this project during 1998-99. The Media Village is to be located on the former Lidcombe Hospital site and will accommodate 6,000 media representatives during the Games. Technical Officials will be housed at Villawood. It is expected that construction of the Media and Technical Officials' Villages will be completed by mid 2000 with around \$41 million to be incurred in 1998-99.
Homebush Bay ◆ Olympic Stadium ◆ Millennium Parklands ◆ Sydney Super Dome - Multi-Use Arena ◆ Athletes' Village; and ◆ Tennis Centre.	The stadium, completed ahead of schedule, held its first sporting event, National Rugby League double header premiership games, on 6 March 1999. In excess of 105,000 people attended the event and the public transport arrangements, in getting such a large number of people to and from the Stadium, were a great success. This was followed by a number of sporting and international events including the official opening in June 1999. The Olympic Co-ordination Authority will provide funds of approximately \$21 million to the Stadium in 1998-99. Work is continuing at the parklands that involves land remediation, major landscaping and the provision of a network of cycle routes and footpaths. Some \$10 million will be incurred during 1998-99. This \$197 million facility will be used as the Olympic venue for basketball finals and artistic gymnastics and the Paralympic venue for basketball. Over \$80 million will be provided in 1998-99 by the Olympic Co-ordination Authority to the consortium building the facility as part of the Government's total construction contribution of \$142 million. The facility is on schedule to be completed by December 1999. Construction of the Athletes' Village at the Newington site is expected to be completed by 30 June 2000. The Olympic Co-ordination Authority will make its first major contribution towards this project in June 2000. The project is on schedule for completion by September 1999. Up to \$27 million will be incurred in 1998-99.
Olympic Park Railway Station, Rail Loop and Ferry Wharf	The railway station, rail loop and ferry wharf were completed in 1998. Other major transport infrastructure works including the Olympic Boulevard were completed and opened in 1998-99. Over \$120 million of infrastructure works will be incurred during 1998-99.