



Parramatta Advertiser
19/10/2011
Page: 5
By: Tyron Butson
Section: General News
Region: Sydney Circulation: 82656
Type: Suburban
Size: 208.00 sq.cms
Frequency: --W----

Plans to make west the best

O'FARRELL'S INITIATIVES

Tyron Butson

WESTERN Sydney is the "engine room of NSW" and Premier Barry O'Farrell has an ambitious plan to rev it up, making the west the number one place to live, do business and work.

Mr O'Farrell laid out some of his plans to boost jobs in Western Sydney by decentralisation of government departments and funding employment growth centres, in an exclusive interview.

"Western Sydney, from the economic stand point, it's the driver of the economy, from housing through to the industrial areas: it's the engine room of NSW," he said.

Mr O'Farrell has rolled out a series of initiatives to bring the western suburbs to the fore, ranging from bringing the Sydney Festival to Parramatta to more than \$50 million to upgrade bus and transport facilities in and around Parramatta.

Meanwhile, a push to decentralise government departments – moving back office government jobs and bureaucrats from the city CBD to growth areas such as Penrith, Blacktown and Parramatta – could break the inner city's traditional hold on the majority of the

SWEET HOME

People choose to live in western Sydney and Premier Barry O'Farrell intends to deliver the jobs, the public transport and the infrastructure to make them even happier.

"I think there's a view in the eastern suburbs that people don't live in the west by choice," he said.


"But a lot of people live in western Sydney because they love the area."

He said his plans to grow substantial economic hubs in areas such as Penrith, Parramatta and Blacktown would stimulate the economy and drive up that feeling of worth in the west even more.

city's employment opportunities.

"We need to ensure that those magnificent success stories that have come out of western Sydney over the past 100 years are replicated in the future," Mr O'Farrell said.

"There is enough to spread around and we're actively considering moving a lot of public service offices out of the Sydney CBD."

 **Will Barry O'Farrell deliver on his promises for western Sydney?**
parramattaadvertiser.com.au