

7,000 jobs to be created in the transformation of Darling Walk

6 July 2009

Premier Nathan Rees today announced the start of construction of the \$500 million Darling Walk project at Darling Harbour.

Mr Rees said with demolition and excavation works completed, work on building Sydney's newest commercial, retail and leisure space is now underway.

"The former SEGA World site will be transformed into an exciting hub for business and families," Mr Rees said.

"This redevelopment confirms Sydney's position as the financial services hub in the Asia-Pacific.

"Due for completion in 2011, this project will create around 7,000 jobs during construction and will provide a huge economic boost for Sydney.

"When completed, the development will deliver office accommodation for over 5,000 employees of the Commonwealth Bank."

Mr Rees said that families and tourists will also enjoy the new Darling Walk with retail space, cafes, a community green, an active water play area and a 275-seat theatre for children also included.

"New pedestrian links will be built from Darling Harbour to Town Hall Station, Chinatown and Cockle Bay, improving access for millions of people who visit the area each year," Mr Rees said.

The 1.5 hectare site will combine state of the art commercial office and leisure space to bring new activity and vibrancy to the southern end of Darling Harbour.

Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, said that Lend Lease has been chosen to develop the site, which has a total Gross Floor Area of 68,000 square metres, in partnership with the NSW Government's Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

"This government-initiated partnership will draw upon the expertise of the private sector to maintain Darling Harbour's reputation as a world class waterfront precinct," Ms Keneally said.

"Darling Walk will deliver cutting-edge urban design and exciting new public spaces for Sydneysiders.

"The enhanced public domain will include interactive water features, a nature playground, and kiosks within a purpose-designed landscaped park.

“Lend Lease has committed to achieving the highest rating for environmentally sustainable design and construction for the project.

“The development is targeting a number of sustainability initiatives, including potable water reduction of 90% through rainwater harvesting and onsite waste water recycling initiatives.

Ms Keneally said the development will also target carbon emission reduction through:

- energy efficient design;
- reduction of energy use via chilled beam and fresh air systems; and
- a façade designed to minimise heat entering the building and to maximise natural light

Important statement about political donations

New donation disclosure laws came into effect on 1 October 2008. Under the new laws, proponents are required to disclose political donations made by anyone with a financial interest in the project made in the previous two years. Where there is a declarable political donation, the independent Planning Assessment Commission determines the application. More information on the process for assessing applications from proponents who have made political donations is available from <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/assessingdev/donations.asp>

The concept plan for Darling Walk was approved in July 2008. In September 2008 the Government announced that Lend Lease had been selected to deliver the project. These events occurred prior to the introduction of new donation disclosure laws and the establishment of the Planning Assessment Commission.