



Dominic Perrottet
Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 29 November 2018

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE OF NSW

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet has welcomed new figures from the ABS which show the construction industry in NSW is booming.

The Construction Work Done for the September Quarter 2018 shows an increase of 2.2 per cent - up 8.5 per cent from the previous year, with engineering construction up more than 11 per cent.

The ABS says that New South Wales has also experienced the fastest growth in private capital expenditure among the mainland states over the past year, increasing by 13.1 per cent.

The next best over that period was Victoria, recording 6.9 per cent.

The ABS capital expenditure data measures the total amount the private sector has invested in equipment, factories and other buildings.

NSW's capital expenditure reached \$8.3 billion in real terms for the September quarter, this is a record high and marks the sixth consecutive quarter in which NSW has recorded the highest capex in the nation.

The next highest state was Western Australia, which recorded quarterly capex of \$6.3 billion followed closely by Queensland on \$6.2 billion.

Mr Perrottet said the figures were a ringing endorsement of the NSW Liberals and Nationals Government's asset recycling strategy and business friendly policies.

"Our State is in the middle of a once-in-a-generation construction boom," said Mr Perrottet. "From coast to coast, north to south, metro to regions - NSW is being rebuilt from the ground up. There has never been more construction since the days of Governor Lachlan Macquarie."

"Our asset recycling approach has helped boost public investment and employment growth, while our efforts to lower taxes and cut red tape has given business the confidence to grow and invest - this is why more than half a million jobs have been added since 2011."

“Behind these figures are thousands of jobs, which means people can get ahead, families have security and communities can grow.”

The ABS also found:

- Residential Building Work Done grew 0.8 per cent in the quarter, led by Alterations & Additions (5.7 per cent) and with minor contributions from New building (0.2 per cent)
- Non-residential continues to grow, up 3.7 per cent in the quarter, bolstered by strong Private growth of 7.6 per cent).
- Engineering construction work done grew 2.9 per cent in the quarter, up an impressive 11.3 per cent from this time last year.

Mr Perrottet said the biggest threat to the construction industry NSW economy was a Labor government.

“The NSW Labor party is currently campaigning on a platform of cancelling infrastructure projects, taking us back to 2011. This is exactly what they did last time and will destroy thousands of jobs and devastate business confidence.”

“The figures don’t lie - nothing was being constructed in the Labor years and the data now proves it.”

“NSW simply can’t afford Labor”.

