



VALENTINE'S DAY

Love won't cost a thing

From yesterday's Valentine's Day, the NSW Government has waived the fee for the standard marriage certificate for one year – saving newlyweds \$45.

The Government has also waived the fee on certificates for registered relationships.

"This is a one-off Valentine's Day present," NSW Premier Kristina Keneally said.

And if re-elected, a Keneally Government will immediately begin a review of fees and charges at the Birth, Deaths and Marriage Registry – with a view to implementing a revised schedule lowering or eliminating many fees which started on February 14, 2012 – the first anniversary of the plan.

Ms Keneally said this builds on the Fairness for Families Act announced earlier this month – easing cost of living pressures on new families and cutting government fees.

"This is a small gesture on behalf of the Government to share the love on Valentine's Day," Ms Keneally said.

"Waiving the marriage license fee is our pre-wedding present to the estimated 42,000 couples who will marry in NSW this year.

"I can assure anyone considering proposing this Valentine's Day that my Government is happy to cut out one minor cost – a wedding certificate.

"Every couple knows that saving for a wedding can be a challenge – everything adds up and every little bit helps."

In 2009, there were 40,564 registered marriages in NSW.

In the last six years, the number of registered marriages has risen steadily – on average by 1.82 per cent, although there is some marked variation between years. In 2006, the number of registered marriages rose by 4.3 per cent.

There are two categories of certificate: standard and commemorative. Eighty per cent of the transactions relating to marriage certificates issued are classed as "standard".

Therefore, the fee waiver does not include commemorative certificates or special urgent requests for marriage certificates. The fee waiver will only apply to marriages that occur on or after February 14, 2011 for a period of 12 months.

The fee for standard delivery of these certificates is \$45 and \$67 respectively; for urgent delivery, \$66 and \$88 respectively.

Waiving both the marriage certificate fee and the relationship certificate fee would cost about \$1.97 million a year.

SCHOOL SPORTING UPGRADES

Ms Cherie Burton MP, Member for Kogarah, has announced that five local schools would receive \$148,000 in funding as part of an initiative to improve sporting facilities in NSW schools.

Ms Burton believes that sport and physical activity have the potential to give children and young people the physical, mental and social edge to achieve, which is why

Ms Burton lobbied to receive the \$148,000 in funding for the local area upgrades.

Local schools to receive grants include

Bald Face Public School - \$50,000 (to resurface playing court)

Connells Point Public School - \$45,000 (to level and return the oval)

Blakehurst High School - \$15,000 (to refurbish the oval)

Kogarah Public School - \$20,000 (to upgrade the fitness area and in-



In the Photo is Cherie Burton MP, Ms Lea Kitchener the Principal of Kogarah Public School and the Captains and Vice Captains of Kogarah Public School.)

stall irrigation)

Sydney Technical High School - \$18,000 (to rectify problems with playing courts)

"We've achieved a lot for our local schools and ensuring they have quality sporting facilities is one of my top priorities".

O'Farrell urban sprawl to increase air pollution by six million tonnes

Minister for Western Sydney, David Borger today slammed Barry O'Farrell's 50:50 housing plan – which will increase Greenhouse Gas emissions by 6 million tonnes to 2036.

"Barry O'Farrell is proposing to pack Western Sydney with a population bigger than Cairns, Canberra and Coffs Harbour combined," Mr Borger said.

"That means an extra 603,000 cars on our road each day – more than double the M2, M4 and M5.

"It is no surprise that he

is a climate change denier." The warning follows revelations in an independent report from the Centre for Independent Economics that the Coalition's housing plan for the area would increase local air pollution by six million tonnes by 2036.

One of the biggest contributors to local air pollution will be the extra 603,000 cars needed to accommodate the Coalition's plan for 128,000 new houses for Western Sydney and South Western Sydney.

"More houses in Western Sydney and South Western Sydney means more cars on the roads and more air pollution pumped into our local environment.

"That's bad news for our local environment and bad news for the respiratory health of local residents and their families – especially young children."

"Health experts say that young children are especially vulnerable to the health dangers associated with air pollution – and that's a real concern a-

mong local families in western Sydney.

"Barry O'Farrell and the Coalition have already vowed to scrap the Western Express and increase commute times for western Sydney families – now they want to pollute our local environment and put our health at risk too.

"Western Sydney residents want a healthy environment for their families – that's why I will fight tooth and nail against Barry O'Farrell's housing plan for Western Sydney and South Western Sydney."

KENEALLY'S CAMPAIGN LAUNCH FRAUD: Like Carr, she can't be trusted to deliver

Premier Kristina Keneally's election campaign launch has been exposed as a disgraceful fraud after it was revealed the centre piece of Labor's campaign launch was a recycled Bob Carr commitment which was never implemented, NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell revealed today.

"This was a Carr con twenty years ago, and it's a Keneally con today," Mr O'Farrell said.

"If this was core Labor policy as Kristina Keneally claims, why hasn't it been implemented over the last 16 years?" he asked.

"Kristina Keneally has treated the people of NSW like fools by taking Mr Carr's campaign promise and pretending it was hers.

"And just like Bob Carr, Kristina Keneally can't be trusted to deliver either," he said.

"Kristina Keneally has not only stolen Bob Carr's idea – she's even used the same carefully scripted words as Mr Carr." Two decades ago, Mr Carr promised to peg government charges to the cost of living and pledged to introduce a Family Relief Act to protect householders from higher price rises.

On Sunday, Ms Keneally pledged to peg government

charges to the cost of living and introduce a Fairness for Families Act to protect householders from higher price rises.

Just like Mr Carr, Kristina Keneally said her promise to peg charges 'had to be more than a promise... it has to be the law.'

And, like Mr Carr, Kristina Keneally claimed any future government which increased government charges by more than the CPI would be breaking the law.

Mr O'Farrell said Ms Keneally's campaign speech was a direct steal from Mr Carr.

"Not only is Kristina Keneally not believable, she is not even original. Kristina Keneally's campaign launch was nothing more than a sneaky charade.

"She has simply stolen Bob Carr's blueprint to plead for one more turn at running the State after 16 years of Labor failure and incompetence. It's no wonder no one believes her anymore," Mr O'Farrell said.



Kristina Keneally