



Media Release

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NEW SKILLS CONNECT PROGRAM TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE AT BARANGAROO SOUTH

A new Federal Government initiative to provide \$7.3 million of funding for workforce planning and training at Barangaroo South on Sydney's CBD harbourfront will radiate positive civic and economic benefits well beyond the construction site's boundaries, Lend Lease's Managing Director for Barangaroo South Andrew Wilson said today.

"Upskilling workers and apprentices not only enhances their careers, it also provides flow-on benefits for the communities in which they live and for Australia's construction industry," Mr Wilson said.

Mr Wilson's comments follow today's announcement by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research, Senator the Hon Chris Evans, of the launch of the Skills Connect Barangaroo South Partnership an agreement between the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), the Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council (CPSISC) and Lend Lease.

"Barangaroo South, with its decade-long construction program, is a truly inter-generational project," Mr Wilson said. "There are youngsters at school today who will have the opportunity to contribute to Barangaroo South when they seek out their first job – just as some current school kids will have a chance to work in the three commercial towers when they're completed."

Over the next decade, many tens of thousands of workers will be directly involved in the construction of the buildings and public infrastructure at the \$6 billion Barangaroo South project, with about 3,000 workers on site at the peak of construction.

"Lend Lease's building program provides a major opportunity for training and skilling the next generation of Sydney construction workers," he said. "The \$7.3m Skills Connect funding will provide training for over 2,600 workers, apprentices and trainees across four separate programs over the next two years.

- Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Program –to identify mentors among the workforce and to match them to apprentices to assist retention of apprentices;
- Workplace English Language & Literacy Program –to train workers (including Indigenous participants) in reading, writing and maths skills;
- National Workforce Development Fund - to support training of existing and new workers in current and future business and workforce development areas of need, and;
- More Help for Mature Age Workers (Experience+) – funding for workers aged 45+ with trade skills but no formal qualifications to have their skills assessed & formally recognised, with gap training if required.

"Importantly, funding from the Skills Connect partnership will help us towards our goal of having 500 Indigenous people participate in the transformation of Barangaroo South," Mr Wilson said.

"Lend Lease is delighted and honoured to be part of this innovative pilot program".

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