

LEADER 17/2/2022

Premier praises shire's job figures

PREMIER Gladys Berejiklian says Sutherland Shire businesses "must be doing something right", with the unemployment rate in the area about 3.4 per cent, compared with 6.7 per cent nationally.

Ms Berejiklian said statistics didn't reveal "those who are doing it tough and those who have had to let staff go, but, generally speaking, compared with the rest of the nation or the rest of NSW, the shire is definitely doing better".

The Premier was speaking at a luncheon organised by economic development group ShireBiz at Doltone House, Sylvania Waters, on Friday.

"My message to the shire and ShireBiz is please keep doing what you're doing," she said.

"Your energy, enthusiasm and get-up-and-go and constructive criticism when needed is helping us to become a better, more accountable government."

The subject of her address was promoted as "Southern



MESSAGE: Gladys Berejiklian encouraged businesses to "keep doing what you're doing". Picture: John Veage

Sydney- Post Pandemic - What is planned for the shire at government level and what can we do to assist".

However, no new area specific announcements were made.

Ms Berejiklian received warm applause for her leadership during COVID-19 and general business initiatives responding to the pandemic.

Subjects covered included: **Sutherland Hospital**

MRI: Ms Berejiklian said she would speak to Health Minister Brad Hazzard about whether the installation of a new MRI could take place before the scheduled 2023.

ANSTO: Ms Berejiklian

said the government was "very cognisant of thinking about the future and what opportunities we can create to get industries up and running and initiating innovation in NSW".

"So, we're looking at the precincts we are developing and the innovation precinct around ANSTO fits into that."

M6 (F6) motorway: Ms Berejiklian said plans for extending the motorway from Kogarah to Loftus were under way, but she did not respond to an assertion that uncertainty over the route was hindering plans by developers and the council.

- MURRAY TREMBATH