



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

MINISTER ANNOUNCES INTRODUCTION DATE FOR NEW CITYRAIL TIMETABLE

Transport Fact: The NSW Government is investing \$3.6 billion in new train carriages for commuters.

Monday 1 June 2009

Minister for Transport David Campbell today revealed the implementation date for the new CityRail timetable, which will integrate the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link and introduce additional services from Sydney's west.

Mr Campbell said the 2009 Timetable would be introduced on Sunday, 11 October after an extensive public awareness campaign to ensure everybody is across the changes.

"The timetable will integrate the \$2.3 billion Epping to Chatswood Rail Link (ECRL) into the broader rail network, allowing CityRail to run additional services to benefit customers and offset crowding issues," Mr Campbell said.

"The new timetable includes input from rail travellers on a range of issues such as service frequency, journey time, stopping patterns and connections to other services.

"These opinions were gained and incorporated into the draft timetable following a four-week public consultation, late last year."

The final 2009 Timetable will be made available in July.

Mr Campbell said the benefits of the new timetable would include:

- Additional peak services to the Western, South and East Hills lines;
- Additional services 9am to 12 noon for Western, South, Northern and North Shore passengers;
- Additional carriages on peak hour trains to increase capacity;
- Crowd relief at CBD stations through altered platform arrangements;
- Direct rail access to the Macquarie Park/North Ryde employment corridor.

"The link is helping CityRail meet growing passenger numbers by providing a new rail path to the CBD via the North Shore," Mr Campbell said.

"The new capacity will allow CityRail to provide extra peak-hour services from the west.

"Customers are using CityRail services in unprecedented numbers with passenger journeys exceeding 300 million a year.

"It's important that the capacity of the CityRail network is expanded, and this is why we have built the Epping to Chatswood link and we have 626 new air-conditioned trains on order, which the private sector is contracted to deliver from 2010."

For further information: **Brett Zarb – 0417 256 563**

Brochures and other timetable literature will be available for the 2009 Timetable in advance at CityRail stations and the timetable will be able to be viewed in July at www.cityrail.info.

Mr Campbell also reminded customers that there was just one week to go until the end of the free travel period on the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link.

“Normal fares will commence on Monday 8 June following 100 days of free fares, to celebrate the opening of the new link,” Mr Campbell said.

“Commuters have enjoyed around 99 per cent on-time running since the new line opened in February and over 10,000 people have been using it every day.

“This is an incredible piece of infrastructure and the feedback we’ve had so far has been overwhelmingly positive.”