

## NSW GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE – 24 April 2014

### AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROJECT POWERING AHEAD

- NSW Premier Mike Baird has inspected the progress of construction on the North West Rail Link and received a briefing on the \$8.3 billion project.
- The North West Rail Link is Australia's biggest public transport project and this vital piece of infrastructure will create thousands of jobs and improve the lives of commuters in Sydney's North West.
- This crucial project is proceeding rapidly and the first of the four massive tunnel boring machines are due in the ground by October this year – ahead of an end-of-year commitment.
- At the Cherrybrook railway station site, work is well underway to excavate the "box" area, from which two tunnel boring machines will dig six kilometres to Epping. The tunnelling contract alone will support about 900 jobs.

### OPAL ROLLOUT EXPANDS TO BUSES IN SYDNEY'S EAST

- Opal electronic ticketing will start rolling out on State Transit buses, with five bus routes in Sydney's eastern suburbs to join the Opal network from Monday 28 April.
- The NSW Government successfully fast-tracked Opal on all Sydney Ferries services and 308 Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink stations, and is now turning its attention to buses.
- Five bus routes, **326, 327, 355, 361** and **L24**, will go-live with Opal over a two-week period from Monday. Customers can already use their Opal card on route **333**, which was the first State Transit bus to go live with Opal as part of a customer trial.
- To find ticket sellers, customers should call 131 500 or visit [www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info). To order an Adult or Child/Youth card go to [www.opal.com.au](http://www.opal.com.au) or call 13 67 25.

### NEW CABINET TO TRANSFORM NSW

- NSW Premier Mike Baird and Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner have announced a revitalised Cabinet team with five fresh faces ready to bring new energy to the task of transforming NSW.
- Mr Baird says the new team is committed to building on the outstanding achievements of the past three years and accelerating the delivery of vital new infrastructure and improved services.
- Significant changes include the appointments of Andrew Constance as Treasurer, Pru Goward as Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard as Attorney General and

Gabrielle Upton as Minister for Family and Community Services and Kevin Humphries as Minister for Land and Water.

- The five new Ministers are Pittwater MP Rob Stokes (Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage and Assistant Minister for Planning), Dubbo MP Troy Grant (Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing and Minister for the Arts), Castle Hill MP Dominic Perrottet (Minister for Finance and Services), Bathurst MP Paul Toole (Minister for Local Government) and Wollondilly MP Jai Rowell (Minister for Mental Health and Assistant Minister for Health)
- The full Cabinet list can be viewed at [www.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nsw.gov.au).

## **SOUTH WEST RAIL PROJECT TAKING SHAPE**

- Another of the NSW Government's major infrastructure projects has reached a significant milestone, with major construction completed at two brand new stations on the South West Rail Link.
- The South West Rail Link is being delivered at a rapid pace, with services set to start for customers next year - 12 months ahead of schedule and \$100 million under the \$2.1 billion budget.
- NSW Premier Mike Baird and Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian this week visited the site of the new Leppington Station, which, along with Edmondson Park, is one of two new stations along the 11.4km South West Rail Link.
- The South West Rail Link will provide rail services to one of Sydney's fastest growing areas and means a huge economic boost for the region.

## **FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR DIGGERS AND FAMILIES ON ANZAC DAY**

- The NSW Government will offer free public transport to and from Anzac Day commemorations this Friday for diggers and their families.
- Current and former Australian Defence Force personnel wearing their uniform or medals will be entitled to free travel to and from Anzac Day events on Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink Intercity services, Sydney Ferries, regular bus services across Sydney and light rail.
- Spouses, children or grandchildren can also travel free by displaying their medals, or if they're carrying a letter from their local RSL branch or other ex-services organisation or the War Widow's Gold Card.
- Special early morning bus and train services will run on Anzac Day so people can attend the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, which starts at 4:30am.

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