



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

EPPING TO CHATSWOOD RAIL LINK MOVES TO THE NEXT PHASE

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NSW Minister for Transport David Campbell said today the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link has moved into the next phase of commissioning with crew training scheduled to begin next week.

Mr Campbell said the \$2.3 billion Rail Link is the largest public infrastructure project currently underway in NSW and is on track to begin running as a shuttle service from 22 February 2009, subject to final safety and operational checks.

“The Epping to Chatswood Rail Link will deliver a state-of-the-art service that will put around 12,000 extra people on the CityRail network every day,” Mr Campbell said.

“The three new stations Macquarie Park, Macquarie University and North Ryde have been fitted with new technology, wide open concourses and modern facilities.

“Over 10,000 people have worked on the tunnels and stations and importantly, the project is continuing to create jobs in the rail sector. It will also be a great stimulus for the local economy by providing access to the Macquarie Park business precinct and the University.

“Tunnel construction, track laying, overhead wiring and the commissioning of the signalling system are now complete.

“From next week the crew who will be operating the Rail Link will begin their training ready for the start of the shuttle service.

“The commissioning process for a project of this scale and complexity requires comprehensive testing and training to ensure the service can be successfully and safely operated.”

The Epping to Chatswood Rail Link will commence as a shuttle service before it is fully integrated into the network as part of the new timetable in the second half of 2009.

“The 2009 Timetable will include regular services every 15 minutes through the new Link,” Mr Campbell said.

Mr Campbell said the shuttle service will provide direct rail access for the first time to the growth areas of North Ryde and Macquarie Park, as well as direct access to Macquarie University. When fully integrated the Rail Link will provide:

- Increased capacity on the CityRail network to help reduce congestion on the Western Line between Strathfield and the CBD
- Improved integration of services and increased capacity for future growth at Epping and Chatswood stations.

“This is an exciting project and I look forward to seeing passengers using the Rail Link shortly,” Mr Campbell said.

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