



# Ray Williams MP

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**Member for Hawkesbury  
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **HIDDEN HEART OF THE NORTH WEST REVEALS ITS SECRETS**

Member for Hawkesbury Ray Williams today said Sydney's North West has been captivated by the discovery of the 19th century White Hart Inn at Kellyville during construction of the \$8.3 billion North West Rail Link project.

"Since this important historical find was revealed, the White Hart Inn and what life may have been like in this part of colonial Sydney has captured our imagination," Mr Williams said.

"This important discovery will help answer questions about our region's past – as we build for the future with projects like the North West Rail Link."

Mr Williams today inspected the inn ruins with descendants of one of the White Hart Inn's owners, ahead of two community open days at the Old Windsor Road archaeological site this weekend.

"The North West Rail Link project team was inundated with people wanting to see these ruins – so much so that a second community open day was scheduled to meet this overwhelming demand," Mr Williams said.

"More than 1,000 people will get the chance to tour the ruins of the White Hart and see the artefacts recovered so far – a great outcome for the community to get a glimpse of our region's past.

"Just as importantly, we're now getting on with the job of conserving this important part of Sydney's heritage for the future."

Archaeological experts have carefully excavated the site and catalogued incredible finds, including a toothpaste canister with Queen Victoria's image on it, medicine bottles, a doll's leg and coins that are almost 200 years old.

After the community open days, the White Hart Inn site will be covered up to protect it while major North West Rail Link construction work takes place above it.

"The NSW Government has committed to conserving the site, and discussions will take place during the construction phase on how this will happen," Mr Williams said.

“A strategy will be put in place to determine what happens to the site and its artefacts in the long term.

“An exclusion zone has been set up around the historical site and the design of the 4km skytrain section of the North West Rail Link is being modified to protect it.

“One of the pylons for the skytrain landed right in the middle of the White Hart Inn site, so the North West Rail Link project team is now working with contractor Impregilo- Salini to adjust the pylon position so that the site can be conserved.”

Mr Williams said a special section of the North West Rail Link website will have historical information about the White Hart Inn as well as images of the artefacts and video interviews with archaeologists.

The NSW Government announced last month that the first North West Rail Link tunnel boring machine will be in the ground before the end of October this year, with the tunnelling project to support around 900 jobs – and a major recruitment drive in Western Sydney now underway.