



Gladys Berejiklian MP

Minister for Transport

MEDIA RELEASE

17 October 2012

CASTLE HILL SHOWGROUND FUTURE SECURED

The future of the Castle Hill Showground and facilities has been secured following consultation with the local community about the adjacent North West Rail Link station precinct.

Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian said the location of the station and the construction site have been moved to reduce impacts on the Showground.

The railway station will also be renamed Showground Station, in line with a suggestion by the Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society.

The update follows The Hills Shire Council's decision earlier this year to move out of the council building. The changes will be outlined when the second Environmental Impact Statement is released in coming weeks and include:

- Moving the railway station to the south-east, further away from the Showground ring and community facilities to reduce construction impacts;
- Acquiring and demolishing the Hills Centre to make way for the new station and possibly using the Hills Shire Council building as a project office during construction;
- Changing the location of the heavy vehicle access road following feedback;
- Retaining four out of five community facilities previously proposed to be demolished. The trotting stables and horse amenities will be relocated on-site;
- Improved bus interchange and commuter car park, located closer to the station.

"We have made a number of significant changes after listening to the community that will deliver the best outcome during construction and when the North West Rail Link is operational," Ms Berejiklian said.

"I encourage everyone to have a look at these changes as part of the second Environmental Impact Statement and have a say.

"This is a crucial project for north-west Sydney and we are getting on with the job of building it."

The project team and The Hills Shire Council will work with regular community users of the Hills Centre.

The Hills Centre would have been impacted during construction of the North West Rail Link under the previous plan for the precinct and the council had not renewed the lease beyond May next year.

The Showground construction site will be set up at the end of 2013 while early site preparation work starts in May next year.