



Gladys Berejiklian MP

Minister for Transport

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW STATIONS, NEW TRAINS AND 14 MILLION FEWER CAR TRIPS

North West Sydney today got its first look at the city's eight new railway stations and other major benefits of the North West Rail Link, with the project's second Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) going on exhibition.

Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian said the community will have until December 3 to have their say on the second EIS.

"This is a great opportunity to participate in the community discussion around the North West Rail Link and to have your say," she said.

"We are building a piece of infrastructure that will completely change the way of life for people across Sydney, benefiting generations to come – so we need to get it right from the start and the community is a critical part of that."

The second EIS highlights key benefits of the project, including:

- The North West Rail Link is forecast to reduce car trips by 14 million a year soon after opening – this is about 12,000 fewer car trips in an average two-hour weekday morning peak. The reduction in car trips is forecast to increase to 20 million a year by 2036;
- The trip from Cudgegong Road, Rouse Hill to Macquarie Park will take about 28 minutes, to Chatswood 37 minutes and to Wynyard (including an interchange) 57 minutes.

The second EIS focuses on:

- Design and operation of the eight new railway stations at Cherrybrook, Castle Hill, Showground, Norwest, Bella Vista, Kellyville, Rouse Hill and Cudgegong Rd;
- Commuter parking for 4,000 cars;
- How the rapid transit rail link operates, including the new generation single deck trains announced as part of Sydney's Rail Future;
- Transport interchanges;
- Areas around the railway stations; and
- Rail infrastructure like railway tracks and signalling systems.

The first EIS was approved in late September, giving the planning green light to building the 15km of tunnels, station excavations and starting the work on the 4km skytrain section.

“By splitting the planning approvals process in two, we can now get on and build the tunnels – which will take the longest amount of time – while spending a little extra time through the second EIS looking at the design of the stations and the areas around them,” Ms Berejiklian said.

“We will consult with the community to ensure we deliver our customers the best possible service to meet all their needs – whether they are travelling to work, university, going shopping or even to the annual Castle Hill Show at the new Showground Station.

“I encourage the community to have their say because we’ve already seen that good feedback can lead to positive improvements to the project as we move forward – we are serious about listening to the comments.”

Following community feedback over the past 18 months, key improvements to the North West Rail Link include:

- Going from six to eight railway stations;
- Increasing commuter car parking by 1,000 spaces – to 4,000;
- Securing the future of the Castle Hill Showground;
- Easing disruption to Norwest Boulevard during construction by slightly moving Norwest station; and
- Reducing the size of the Cheltenham construction site by more than 2,000 square metres.