



MEDIA RELEASE

17 JULY 2014

STRONG LOCAL WOMEN OF THE PAST AND FUTURE COME TOGETHER AS LOCAL STUDENT NAMES FIRST NWRL TUNNEL BORING MACHINE

Kevin Conolly, Member for Riverstone, today congratulated Alexandra Marshall from Rouse Hill Anglican College for winning the naming competition for the North West Rail Link's first tunnel boring machine (TBM).

"The first of the four massive tunnel boring machines on the North West Rail Link will be named Elizabeth, after farming pioneer Elizabeth Rouse," Mr Conolly said today.

"It's fitting that Alexandra won with her entry of this 1800s Sydney pioneer, the matriarch and namesake of our great suburb."

"As this massive tunneling machine starts its journey, the North West – and especially the Rouse Hill area – will wear this machine's name with pride.

"This is a great recognition of our area's history as we now look to the future and the delivery of the North West Rail Link, which will change the way of life around here for generations to come."

The Year 6 student entered the North West Rail Link's tunnel boring machine naming competition in May.

"When I found out that the name that I chose was the winning entry, I was so excited – I couldn't believe that I won," Alexandra said.

"I can't wait to see Elizabeth up and running. I feel very proud. I'm looking forward to the ceremony in October and being part of history in the Hills."

Alexandra said she entered after learning about the machines as part of the North West Rail Link's education program, which has been rolled out to schools across the North West.

She said she researched the history of Rouse Hill and the Rouse family – and their pioneering farming efforts in the region – to prepare her entry.

"Rouse Hill is also famous for the Vinegar Hill Rebellion," Alexandra said.



Kevin Conolly MP

Member for Riverstone



“Elizabeth was a strong woman and the Rebellion was a big battle. The boring machine needs to be strong and ready for battle.”

Mr Conolly thanked the local judges of the TBM naming competition: The Hills Shire Mayor Cllr Dr Michelle Byrne, Hills District Historical Society President Julie Graham, Sydney Hills Business Chamber Chairman Tony Eades and Norwest Association Chair Alan Zammit AM.

The competition had the theme: “Women who have made a positive contribution to life in Sydney”.

A new competition is now underway to name the second tunnel boring machine, which will also be at Bella Vista before the end of this year.

The theme for the second machine is the same as the first, and anyone can enter the competition at: www.northwestrail.com.au

Mr Conolly said it’s been a long-held tradition that TBMs around the world are named after women.

“Many underground workers like tunnellers look to Saint Barbara for protection and, because of that, machines that work underground are traditionally given female names,” Mr Conolly said.

“This tradition dates back centuries to Saint Barbara, the patron saint for military engineers, miners and others who worked underground.”