

CENTRAL COAST COMMUTERS SET TO RECEIVE NEW TRAINS AND BUSES

The NSW Government has announced a record size \$3.1 billion infrastructure budget for 2009/10, which includes money for new trains and buses for the Central Coast and four commuter car parks.

NSW Minister for transport David Campbell said new OSCAR (outer suburban) carriages were already operating some services on the Central Coast Line, with the budget providing for more to come into operation this year.

“The OSCARs are new, modern trains with up-to-date furnishings, air-conditioning and spacious interiors,” Mr Campbell said.

“They’ve been warmly welcomed by commuters on the Central Coast, and I expect that will continue with the delivery of even more new trains in the next 12 months.”

Mr Campbell said along with new trains there would also be a fleet of new buses for local services.

“The NSW Government is also investing in commuter car parks, with funds going towards 28 separate facilities, five of which are located on the Central Coast.

“More spaces at your local train station mean you can find a spot faster and with greater ease,” Mr Campbell said.

In 2009/10, over \$170 million will be spent on the government’s commuter car parks commitments. Works have been scheduled on new car park facilities at Wyong and Ourimbah Stations, in addition to the existing works on interchange and car park facilities at Tuggerah, Morrisset and Woy Woy Stations.

Rail

The 2009/10 investment program includes:

- \$6 million to complete the purchase of 81 CityRail Oscar carriages; and
- \$125 million to purchase further CityRail Oscar carriages and stabling at a final cost of \$370 million. This complements the purchase of the original 122 Oscar carriages, which service outer-suburban areas including the Central Coast line to Wyong.
- \$22.5 million for rail maintenance in the region to help ensure the long-term safety and reliability of passenger rail services.

- Passenger information on CityRail services will continue to be improved through a \$17.4 million expenditure in 2009/10 on hardware and software for these facilities.

Buses

- \$19.2 million to purchase 48 replacement buses for private operators in outer metropolitan areas in 2009-10; and
- Over \$3 million is being spent on eight buses as part of a \$6.7 million program to purchase 16 growth buses to expand the Central Coast's bus fleet, with delivery by end of 2010.

Freight improvements

"In 2009/10, \$9 million will be invested towards the \$15 million investigation into the Northern Sydney Rail Freight Corridor project. The Federal Government will also contribute \$840 million for the separation of freight and passenger services through network improvements from North Strathfield to Broadmeadow.

"The project will encourage the shift from freight travelling by road to rail, meaning less growth in the number of trucks on our streets," Mr Campbell said.

Community transport

Community transport services provide transport for people who are less able to access regular public transport services due to physical, social or geographic disadvantage. In 2009/10 \$40.1 million will be spent across NSW on community transport services and projects.

Special programs

Residents of the Central Coast will also share in special programs and concession including:

- \$6.6 million for the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS) outside the Sydney region, which subsidises the cost of taxi transport for people with disabilities;
- \$2.4 million towards the program to change TTSS vouchers from paper based to electronic to improve efficiency, reliability and security of the service;
- Concession travel for beneficiaries including pensioners and students, costing \$192.6 million for CityRail services.