



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

EPPING TO CHATSWOOD INTEGRATION MOVES A STEP CLOSER

CityRail On Time Running is at 95.4% - above the target of 92%.

Embargoed until 5am Saturday 18 July, 2009

The process of integrating the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link (ECRL) is about to take another step forward, with trains to begin trial runs from Central to Hornsby through the underground link, Minister for Transport David Campbell today said.

Mr Campbell said the \$2.3 billion link, which is currently running as a shuttle, will be integrated into the rest of the network with the introduction of the new CityRail timetable on Sunday 11 October.

“Today a trial run will occur from Central to Hornsby, through the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link as part of the integration process.

“Trials will be conducted without passengers to give operational staff the opportunity to become familiar with the new run.

“When the 2009 timetable comes into effect on 11 October it will provide a new way of getting to and from the City and increase capacity across the network.”

Mr Campbell said integration of the ECRL would allow CityRail to provide additional peak services to the **Western, South, East Hills** and **lower North Shore**; additional services between 9am and 12 noon for **Western, South, Northern** and **North Shore** passengers; and additional carriages on peak hour trains to increase capacity.

“The trials will be run using 8-car air-conditioned, silver, suburban trains (K-set), which will operate on the Northern Line through the Epping-Chatswood link when it is integrated,” Mr Campbell said.

“When the new timetable starts, Outer Suburban Trains (Oscars) will continue to stop at the stations on the new link during off-peak periods.

“The link provides approximately 35,000 workers in the Macquarie Park area with a new transport option, together with 26,000 students and staff at Macquarie University.

Copies of the new 2009 Timetable are available at www.131500.info and from CityRail stations from mid September.