

Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

NEW GENERATION TEST TRAIN ARRIVES IN NEWCASTLE FOR FIT OUT

Embargoed until 5am Wednesday 29 July 2009

The delivery of CityRail's new generation trains has met an important milestone, with NSW Transport Minister David Campbell today attending Newcastle Port for the arrival of a four carriage pre-production test vehicle.

Mr Campbell said whilst it was a pre-production test vehicle, it was our first glimpse at the new generation fleet.

"The partially-completed carriages are being unloaded at Newcastle Port today, where they will undergo quarantine and other inspections, before being delivered to Downer EDI Rail's facility at Cardiff for final manufacture," Mr Campbell said.

"The pre-production test vehicle will have two driver's cabs installed, along with traction inverters, an electrical auxiliary power supply and a suite of test and other equipment.

"Rigorous train testing will begin in the Hunter later this year with the test train to be pushed to its limits.

"300 people, including 29 apprentices, will be employed at the Cardiff facility during the local manufacturing phase of the project."

Mr Campbell said the testing phase was an important step in the production of the 626 PPP carriages, which the private sector will deliver from late 2010.

"The new generation, air conditioned trains will be the most technically advanced on the network, improving reliability, safety and the travel experience of Sydney commuters, as well as providing additional capacity," Mr Campbell said.

"The project will also provide long-term jobs for Western Sydney at a state-of-the-art, \$220 million maintenance facility in Auburn, which will employ more than 100 people.

"The fleet delivers not only greater comfort for commuters but also better safety, reliability and accessibility."

The first eight carriages in the fleet will be delivered to the Cardiff facility for final assembly and commissioning later this year.