

TransportNews

March 2010

Premier releases long-term transport plan

Premier Kristina Keneally has announced a far-reaching plan to meet the long-term transport needs of the Sydney Metropolitan area.

The **Metropolitan Transport Plan: Connecting the City of Cities**, focuses on slashing travel times for western Sydney commuters, building a North West rail link, expanding the light rail network and adding more commuter car parks, ferries, and air-conditioned buses and trains.

The 25-year vision will deliver a fully-funded package of transport infrastructure for the Sydney metropolitan area and will deliver benefits for the Illawarra, Central Coast and Hunter.

The plan is backed up by a 10-year funding guarantee and is consistent with maintaining the State's AAA credit rating and delivering value for money for the NSW taxpayer.

The plan comprises \$50.2 billion in spending, including more than \$7 billion in new or expanded transport infrastructure and services.

For the first time, land use and transport planning will be integrated into a single, funded plan which will see Transport and Planning Ministers jointly approve major transport infrastructure, ensuring Sydney's transport needs are matched to growth.

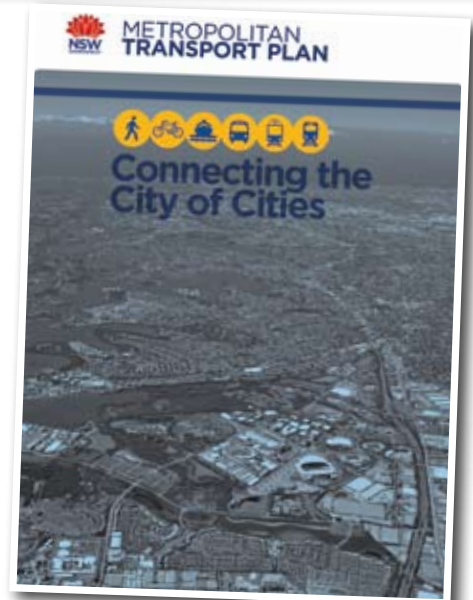
In addition, significant land use decisions will be made by both ministers.

The Metropolitan Transport Plan will include:

- The \$4.5 billion Western Express CityRail Service – a separate dedicated rail track to slash

travelling times from western Sydney to the city, with up to 50 per cent more services and 17 per cent more passengers on an average weekday.

- \$1 billion to commence work of the \$6.7 billion North West rail link from Epping to Rouse Hill with six stations at Franklin Road, Castle Hill, Hills Centre, Norwest, Burns Road and Rouse Hill in 2017;
- A \$500 million expansion of the current light rail system that more than doubles the distance of the existing route, including 4.1 kilometres of light rail from Circular Quay via Barangaroo to Haymarket and 5.6 kilometres of light rail from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill.
- Improvements to bus services costing \$2.9 billion that will include the rollout of 1,000 new buses in Strategic Bus Corridors in Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and the Central Coast; bus priority measures such as GPS traffic light priority; and new STA and private bus depots.
- Over the next 10 years, \$3.1 billion for new trains in addition to the 626 carriages on order;
- Creation of the new Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority responsible for implementing the integrated metropolitan land use strategy
- \$225 million over 10 years for Sydney ferries, including six vessels



Other transport related measures will include significant investment in cycleways, commuter car parks, a NSW Freight Plan to increase productivity and secure jobs, and a Commuter Infrastructure Fund for local transport partnerships.

The Government has invited input from the public on the Metropolitan Transport Plan. Further information, including how to make a submission or comment, can be found at www.shapeyourstate.com.au.

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MyZone delivers easier, simpler fares

The MyZone fare changes, announced by Premier Kristina Keneally and Transport Minister David Campbell, will make choosing a ticket for buses, trains and ferries easier and fairer with the introduction of a simplified fare structure.

More than ninety percent of journeys across the public transport network will be cheaper or the same price, while the new MyMulti tickets will allow commuters unlimited travel and transfers on buses and ferries anywhere in greater Sydney using one ticket.

By delivering a more convenient public transport system, and by capping the cost of weekly travel, the new fare structure will bring more commuters onto public transport and will reward those who regularly use public buses, trains and ferries.

An extensive public information campaign will be undertaken to help the public understand the fare changes and provide them with all the information they need to choose the ticket type that best suits their travel needs.

MyZone fares will apply across the entire CityRail, State Transit, Sydney Ferries and private bus networks in the greater Sydney region, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra. Timed ticket products used in Newcastle will remain but if travel is required outside the reach of the timed ticket products, then a MyZone ticket will need to be purchased.

MyZone tickets will be on-sale at outlets displaying MyZone signage from 3 April and from ticket offices and ticket vending machines from 18 April 2010.

For more information including details of new prices, go to www.myzone.nsw.gov.au



New fares at a glance

- The new fare structure will use existing technology, gates and tickets
- The number of fare bands will be significantly reduced. There will now be:
 - 5 train fare bands instead of more than 20
 - 3 bus fare bands instead of 5
 - 2 ferry fare bands instead of 5
 - 3 new 'all you can travel' passes that cover all modes of public transport
- MyBus TravelTen tickets can be used on all private buses and State Transit buses – no more need for two different tickets
- Off-peak return fares will continue to be discounted by 30 per cent on CityRail services
- Unlimited weekly travel by train, bus and ferry anywhere across the greater Sydney metropolitan area, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra, will be capped at \$57 (Airport Line station access fees will continue to apply)
- There will be a standardised discount of 20 per cent off the price of 10 single trips
- Some ticket products, such as the Day Tripper, will be discontinued
- The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) and the Pensioner Excursion Ticket (PET) remain unchanged





New annual taxi licences

One hundred renewable taxi licences have been issued as part of the NSW Government's Taxi Licencing Reforms that were announced in October.

The new legislation allows anyone who wants to run a taxi business the option to either lease an existing licence on the open market, or obtain a new non-transferable licence for up to ten years from NSW Transport and Infrastructure through a public tender process.

The new licences will be available in Sydney initially, before being rolled out across the State. Existing transferable licences would still be able to be bought



and sold on the open market but the Government is not issuing any further tradeable licences.

These reforms are expected to get more cabs on the road and improve customer services, with shorter waiting times, better reliability and, in the longer term, smaller fare increases.

It is expected that many of the state's 20,000 taxi drivers will take the opportunity to become their own boss as more renewable licences become available.

To ensure demand is driven by supply, the Director-General of NSW Transport and Infrastructure will determine the number of new standard taxi licences to be released by March 31 each year.

Anyone interested in acquiring one of new licences or wanting to find out more can contact NSW Transport and Infrastructure's Transport Operations Division on 9689 8888 or go to www.transport.nsw.gov.au/taxireform.



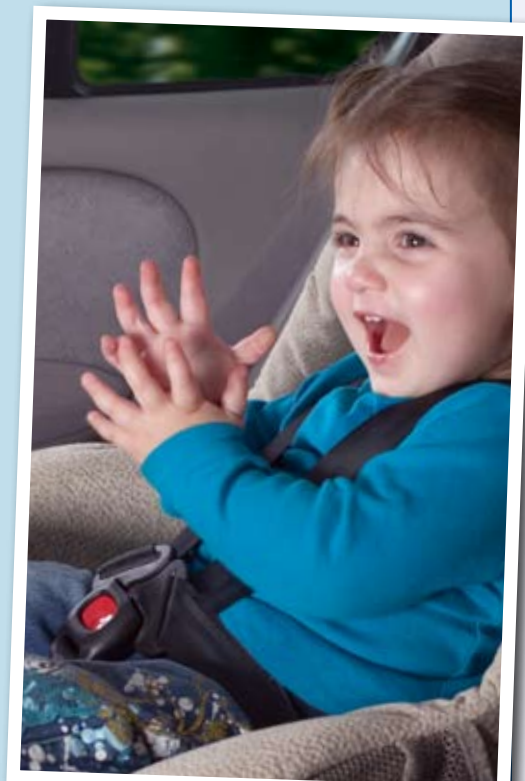
New child restraint laws to protect children

In November 2009 the NSW Government announced the new national child restraint laws would be introduced in NSW on 1 March 2010.

As of this date:

- Children younger than six months must be secured in a rearward facing restraint.
- Children aged six months to under four years must be secured in either a rear or forward facing restraint.
- Children aged four years to under seven years must be secured in forward facing child restraint or booster seat.
- Children younger than four years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows.
- Children aged four years to under seven years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in a child restraint or booster seat.

An extensive education campaign will be implemented to advise the public of these changes.





Bangor Bypass Stage Two begins

One of the largest projects in south west Sydney, one of the fastest growing regions in NSW, has hit top gear, with major construction activity underway on stage two of the Bangor Bypass Project.

Stage Two of the Bangor Bypass will provide a 1.2 kilometre four lane divided road between Recreation Drive in the south and Bangor Bypass Stage One in the north, connecting up with Stage One, which opened to traffic in 2005.

Overall, the 6.5km four-lane divided road which will have significant benefits for motorists and will support more than 400 jobs. The work is being completed by NACE Civil Engineering, a local western Sydney company.

This significant project will include a host of other local upgrades and improvements, including:

- Installing traffic lights at the intersection of Ella Avenue and New Illawarra Road.

- Removing the direct vehicle connection between Ella Avenue and Australia Road;
- Installing traffic lights at the intersection of Old and New Illawarra roads to improve traffic flows and provide better safety for pedestrians and cyclists;
- A shared use pedestrian/cycle path along Old Illawarra Road between Barden Road and Recreation Drive; and
- The adjustment of the Old and New Illawarra roads intersection toward the east to avoid the perimeter of the old tip site, minimise the disturbance to the existing creek and avoid the proposed golf course.

Bangor Bypass Stage Two is due to be completed by the end of 2010.



Construction starts on Oxley Highway upgrade

Major construction has begun on the \$58.5 million Oxley Highway Upgrade Project, which will cut journey times between Port Macquarie and Wauchope.

The six kilometre upgrade will mean a four lane divided road between Wrights Road and the Pacific Highway, west of Port Macquarie.

BMD Constructions Pty Ltd will build the upgrade between Wrights Road and the Pacific Highway, improving road safety and creating almost 100 jobs in the area over the course of the project.

The upgrade will also reduce traffic and noise for residents living near the highway and improve access for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians.

The NSW Government has allocated \$25 million in the 2009-10 budget to continue work on the full length of the Oxley Highway upgrade.

The project is expected to open to traffic in late 2011, weather permitting.

More information about the project can be found on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au





CityRail Customer Charter 2010: delivering for passengers

CityRail successfully delivered all 20 commitments made under its 2009 Customer Service Charter. This Charter is the first stage of a three-year customer service improvement initiative, which focuses on the areas of service that customers identified as being most important to them.

The new 2010 Customer Service Charter, launched in December of last year, includes more commitments and builds on last year's achievements. The 25 commitments are more ambitious and include a new area of focus – accessible services and facilities. This addition recognises the importance of providing a good service for everyone in the community, taking into account their access needs.

CityRail will report publicly each quarter to keep you updated on their progress. The 2009 Customer Charter delivered tangible improvements for passengers. The 2010 Charter outlines clear, specific and measurable commitments to CityRail customers and promises to improve on the achievements of 2009.

Customer Charter 2010: some key commitments

- On-time trains: by June, complete a signalling upgrade in the Sutherland area to reduce delays and increase reliability.
- Manage crowding: by April, increase the frequency of the Olympic Park to Lidcombe services during peak periods.
- Fast, accurate, useful information: by August, install 24-hour automatic passenger information screens on seven additional stations.
- Secure and safe travel: by the end of the year, provide an additional 2,000 parking spaces near stations, with improved security provisions such as lighting and CCTV.
- Clean trains and stations: complete the refurbishment of toilet facilities at another seven stations.
- Fast ticket sales: by June, enable passengers to buy longer term tickets online.
- Quick and fair complaints handling: conduct more than 100 'Meet the Manager' events across the network during the year.
- Accessible services and facilities: by the end of the year, install tactile tiles on 34 platforms at 16 stations

To read the Customer Charter 2010 in full, please visit www.cityrail.info



More OSCAR trains are coming

RailCorp's third delivery of Outer Suburban Cars (OSCARs), comprising 18 four-carriage trains, will start to arrive during the fourth quarter of this year.

The OSCARs, whose features include wheelchair-accessible toilets and advanced on-board passenger communication systems, are being delivered in three stages: Stage 1 began arriving in December 2006 and Stage 2 was complete by June 2009.

They operate to Kiama and Wollongong on the South Coast, north of the Hawkesbury River to Gosford and Wyong, and west as far as Springwood on the Blue Mountains Line.

While OSCAR services provide customers with the most advanced facilities yet, they also form a key part of RailCorp's overall strategy to manage future growth.

The last set in the third group of OSCARS is expected to be delivered by mid-2012.





Tunnel filtration – an Australian first

A world-class air filtration system has commenced operation in the M5 East Tunnel.

To be trialed over an 18 month period, this the first time that air filtration technology has been deployed in a tunnel anywhere in Australia.

The Minister for Transport and Roads, the Hon David Campbell MP, attended a community open day on Saturday 6 March which was hosted by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA).

Around 300 people attended the event, with experts from the RTA providing guided tours throughout the plant so that everyone could get up-close to this Australian first.

The trial forms part of the NSW Government's M5 East Air Quality Improvement Plan, to reduce haze in the tunnel.

Introduced in 2006, the Plan included the introduction of a video detection system for illegal smoky trucks (June 2006) and the installation of 12 new jet fans (December 2006), which have significantly improving air flow throughout the tunnel.

Since the introduction of the Plan, there has been a marked improvement in air quality data.

The air filtration trial forms part of the Plan, and will provide important data about its performance, which will allow the RTA to gain a genuine, scientific understanding of this kind of technology over the full 18 months.

No other government anywhere else in the world has undertaken such an analysis. So not only does the trial represent an Australian first, but in terms of the results that will be obtained over the next 18 months, a world first as well.



Sydney Ferries to remain in NSW Government control

Premier Kristina Keneally announced recently that Sydney Ferries will continue to operate ferry services on Sydney Harbour following the conclusion of a ferry market testing process.

A new service agreement will be signed with Sydney Ferries in the first quarter of 2010.

The ferry market testing process began prior to the creation of the new NSW Transport and Infrastructure super agency and much of the strategic and planning functions will be relocated to the new super agency to deliver the best outcome for ferry passengers.

In making the decision the Government took into account the improved performance standards achieved by Sydney Ferries over the last twelve months, after it was de-corporatised. A significant restructure of Sydney Ferries will be carried out so that further improvements can be delivered.





RTA Pink Plates campaign close to hitting \$100,000 for the McGrath Foundation

The RTA Pink Plates initiative was introduced in April 2009 with the aim of raising money for the McGrath Foundation.

The RTA has donated \$15 from every pink plate sale and \$50 for prestige pink plates to the McGrath foundation to raise money for more breast care nurses in regional New South Wales.

So far, the Pink Plates initiative has sold around 4,300 pink plates and raised around \$91,000 for the McGrath Foundation.

Cricket legend Glenn McGrath was the first person in NSW to fit customised hot pink number plates to his vehicle.

Around 60 per cent of the customers who bought a pink plate chose to personalise it and some new combinations include 5WEEET, PE66LE, BETT3R and S4R4H.

Changing your plates to pink is easy. You can keep the content of your plates but just re-style it to pink.

For further information about the new colours and styles available, go to www.myplates.com.au.

For more information about the McGrath Foundation, please visit www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au.



M4 removal of toll

On 16 February, the NSW Government removed the toll from the M4 Motorway, when the motorway reverted back to public ownership.

The toll plaza, which is maintained by Statewide Roads under a contract with the NSW Government to 2010, terminates this month.

The posted speed limit around the former toll plaza will be 70 km/h. Elsewhere, the existing posted speed limits will not change, with some areas having variable speed limit signage.

The cash back scheme will be removed for the M4 but will continue to operate for users of the M5 South West Motorway. Cashback claims for the M4 can still be made for tolls paid before 16 February. Eligible cash back claimants are reminded that rebates must be claimed within 12 calendar months of the end of the cash back quarter.

Family Funday Sunday

The Family Funday Sunday ticket, first introduced by the NSW Government in December 2008, has been extremely popular with families, resulting in increased patronage on trains, buses and ferries

For just \$2.50 per person, families can travel anywhere on the Sydney metropolitan network, on buses, trains or ferries for the whole day. This represents huge savings for many families, with the ticket being an affordable and convenient option for families wanting to visit the many great attractions in the Sydney metropolitan and outer metropolitan areas.

The tickets proved so popular for families living on the Blue Mountains Line that CityRail had to add four extra carriages to Sunday services between Lithgow and Central.

The \$2.50 tickets are available to adults travelling with children and can be purchased from 7-elevens, convenience stores, train and ferry ticket windows and bus drivers.

For more information visit the Transport Info website at 131500.info or call 131 500.





Pacific Highway upgrade

The upgrade of the Pacific Highway is one of the largest infrastructure projects in NSW history, and the largest road infrastructure currently being undertaken anywhere in Australia. During 2009 the NSW Government signed up to the Federal Government's Nation Building Program which will see \$3.6 billion over the next five years allocated to the Pacific Highway.

The Pacific Highway is being upgraded according to safety and travel priorities. Over the next 5 years, the following sections of the highway will be upgraded to a high-standard dual carriageway:

- Bypasses for Bulahdelah, Moorland, Johns River, Kew, Kempsey, Woolgoolga and Ballina
- a 17 kilometre section north of Ballina to link Ballina and the Byron Bay turn-off
- a 7 kilometre section at Glenugie, between Woolgoolga and Grafton
- a 5 kilometre section at Devils Pulpit, north of Maclean
- Sapphire to Woolgoolga, along the growing northern beach suburbs of Coffs Harbour.
- Work to reduce the bottleneck and improve safety at Banora Point

The Pacific Highway Upgrade Program is managed from an office in Grafton, on the NSW North Coast. The Pacific Highway Office has been in place since 1997 and currently includes 30 staff members covering the key strategic management areas of programming, environment, traffic and communications.

In late 2009, the NSW Government released a plan for the Pacific Highway, which details the priority of upgrades along the Highway for the next five years and beyond. Further information on the Pacific Highway can be obtained by visiting the RTA's website at www.pacifichighwayupgrade.com.au/

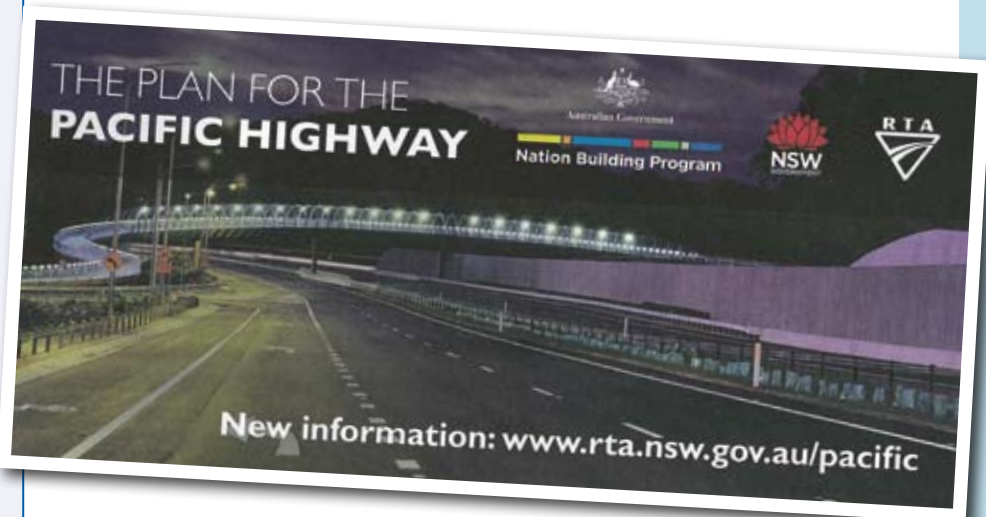


Stage One of the Inner West Busway opens

The first stage of the \$175 million Inner West Busway project has been completed. A citybound bus lane along Victoria Road, between Terry Street and The Crescent, is now in operation from 6am to 10am on weekdays.

Having a dedicated bus lane along this corridor allows for a smoother run into the city for commuters. When the full project is completed in early 2011, the Inner West Busway will deliver major improvements to public transport along Victoria Road.

For more information about the project, visit innerwestbusway.com.au or ring 1300 780 841.



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