



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

PUBLIC INVITED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON 2009 HUNTER TRAIN TIMETABLE

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Transport Minister David Campbell today invited CityRail customers who travel on the Hunter Line to have their say on the proposed timetable to be introduced later this year.

Mr Campbell unveiled the draft timetable for the Hunter Line and encouraged local commuters to provide feedback during a two-week consultation period, 20 April - 1 May.

“The draft timetable proposes a number of improvements to rail services on the Hunter Line and better integrates the local timetable with Newcastle to Sydney services,” Mr Campbell said.

“We are finalising a network-wide timetable to integrate the Epping to Chatswood rail link in the second half of this year and to capture the benefits of the new turnback at Revesby and an additional platform and stabling facility at Hornsby.

“The metropolitan and intercity train network is complex so making changes to one part of our network will almost always affect another part, including the Hunter Line.”

Mr Campbell said people can view the proposed timetable for the Hunter Line from Monday on the CityRail website at www.cityrail.info and then provide feedback online or by calling the Transport Infoline on 131 500 and pressing 5.

Some of the key improvements proposed in the draft timetable include:

- Providing more reliable connections on selected peak services between the Hunter Line and Newcastle & Central Coast Line
- Reducing journey times for express services with better-performing trains and fewer under-utilised stops, and;
- Adjusting evening peak departure times to suit demand, including changing the last weeknight Newcastle to Sydney service from 9.06pm to 9.40pm.

Minister for the Hunter Jodi McKay said the new timetable is an important step towards improving the reliability of the network and it has been designed with the comfort of Hunter commuters in mind.

“Services need to be updated to meet the changing needs of the community, which is why we are giving people the chance to have their say on issues such as service frequency, journey time, stopping patterns and connections to other services,” Ms McKay said.

“We want to provide transport services that are more attractive and useful to the community as a whole – that’s why it’s important for every member of the travelling public to carefully review what is proposed and to comment on any part of the proposal that may affect them.”

Member for Maitland Frank Terenzini welcomed the new timetable and said recent changes to the Hunter line had already been welcomed by the Hunter community.

For further information: **Sabina Husic – 0428 428 737**

“Extra rail cars on the 7.46am Telarah to Newcastle service have been extremely popular with commuters,” Mr Terenzini said.

“The additional 146 seats have provided relief to commuters travelling to work in the Newcastle CBD, students attending several schools along the way and students attending Newcastle University.

“In addition, the new timetable plans for more Endeavour trains to operate on Scone and Dungog services, making it easier for passengers to board and alight trains at stations with platform height differences, which is very welcome news.”