

Media Release

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Extra buses this Saturday for Western Sydney customers going to Panthers' NRL finals game

Sydney Trains is reminding Western Sydney customers to plan ahead if travelling to this Saturday's NRL elimination final between the Sydney Roosters and Penrith Panthers, with trackwork taking place between Emu Plains and Blacktown.

"We apologise to the customers who will need to catch a rail replacement bus to Blacktown before continuing their journey by train to the city," Sydney Trains Acting Chief Executive Tony Eid said.

"We have allocated more buses than usual to ensure no footy fans are left waiting for transport to the game, but we still urge customers to allow extra time for the journey."

It is estimated fewer than 1,000 football fans will be affected by the trackwork in getting to and from Saturday evening's game.

Buses will replace trains for all stations between Emu Plains and Blacktown from 2am on Saturday, 13 September, to 2am on Monday, 15 September.

There will be a fleet of 12 buses operating a service every five to eight minutes.

On a normal weekend, stations between Blacktown and Penrith are serviced by a half-hourly train frequency.

An express Penrith-to-Blacktown shuttle will also operate every 15 minutes over the course of the weekend.

Trains will continue to run between Richmond and Blacktown, to the normal weekend timetable, and also from Blacktown to the CBD and Central.

Sydney Trains will also have an additional 12 stand-by buses strategically placed at Katoomba, Springwood, Penrith and St Marys from 3pm on Saturday and will operate as express services to Blacktown on an as-required basis if football crowds are bigger than expected.

Those stand-by buses will be redirected to Blacktown at 8pm to operate on the same basis for fans returning home after the game.

“While major trackwork is spread across the year, in global cities like Sydney there are major events on most weekends,” Mr Eid said.

“Trackwork is sometimes necessary on major event weekends to carry out important maintenance and improvements to the rail network.

“That’s why plenty of planning goes in to making sure other transport arrangements are in place so customers can still attend events and get to where they need to go.”

This weekend’s trackwork includes \$7 million of critical maintenance work upgrading the power supply, signalling improvements, re-railing and station works to ensure the ongoing safety and reliability of the T1 Western Line and Blue Mountains Line.

For more information on getting to and from this weekend’s NRL finals matches, visit transportnsw.info.

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