



Customers enjoy complimentary snacks and drinks at Macquarie University Station

Epping-Chatswood services one year on

Customers, staff celebrate first anniversary of Northern Line link

CityRail staff yesterday handed out snacks and drinks to customers at Macquarie University Station to mark one year since the opening of the Epping to Chatswood rail link, now fully integrated with the Northern Line.

The \$2.3 billion line opened on Monday 23 February 2009, initially providing a free shuttle service for customers travelling from Epping to Chatswood via new stations Macquarie University, Macquarie Park and North Ryde.

These stations have opened up the rail network for students, businesses and residents in what is now a rapidly growing business and academic hub. "More than 8,000 customers now use the new stations everyday," says CityRail Chief Executive Rob Mason.

Last year, a poll of more than 1,000 commuters who were using the new line showed that overall customer satisfaction was at 96 per cent.

"We worked hard to provide services to this new growth area, and over the next year we will continue to improve both the stations and service," Rob says.

"Planned improvements include new station identification signs for customers and more seating at both Macquarie University and Epping stations."

Since full integration into the network, the Epping to Chatswood rail link has also provided benefits for other customers, including those in the west.

By creating a new route to the CBD via the North Shore, additional morning and afternoon peak services have been added to the Western Line, while extra carriages have been added to existing services to increase capacity.

The introduction of a new CityRail timetable in October 2009 was in part designed to unlock the benefits of a range of new rail infrastructure, including the new rail link.

Reflecting on last year's opening ceremony, Rob says he was proud of the expertise and professionalism shown by the staff who operate the Epping to Chatswood stretch of the Northern Line.

"I was lucky enough to be on board the first-ever passenger service between Epping and Chatswood and it was a great privilege and a very proud moment."

Epping-Chatswood fast facts:

- The 12.5km link comprises two underground tunnels, with one track in each, and three stations.
- It was the first extension of the CityRail network since the Airport Line opened in 2000.
- Epping and Chatswood stations received major upgrades to improve accessibility for customers.



Photo: Vitek Skonieczny

Take the train to Mardi Gras

Sydney's world-famous Mardi Gras Parade is this Saturday, and the best way to grab a good viewing spot is to get on board with CityRail.

From 6pm to 3am, trains will run between Central and Bondi Junction every 10 minutes to get you to the heart of the action and back again.

Museum Station will be closed from 5pm until midnight, so your best bet is to alight at Central, Town Hall, St James or Martin Place Station and walk the short distance to the parade.

You can save money by buying a return train ticket before your big night out.

Look out for our staff, who will be marching under a RailCorp banner for the first time, demonstrating RailCorp's commitment to a diverse, inclusive workforce.

For more information, please visit www.cityrail.info or call Transport Info on 131 500.

New Sydney transport plan is a major boost for rail

The NSW Government's Metropolitan Transport Plan, released last weekend, includes a separate, dedicated rail track designed to cut travel time from western Sydney to the city, as well as the start of work on a North West rail link from Epping to Rouse Hill.

The Western Express CityRail Service ultimately aims to increase capacity on the Western Line by 50 per cent.

The plan also allocates \$3.1 billion over ten years for rolling stock and more than \$400 million for commuter car parks.

Expansion of the light rail system, delivery of six new ferries and 1,000 new buses are also included.

This is the first time that land use and transport planning have been integrated into a single funded plan. By 2036, Sydney's population is expected to grow by 1.7 million to 5.98 million.

You can read Sydney's new transport plan in full and lodge your views or comments at www.nsw.gov.au/shapeyourstate

Did you know?

You could win \$5,000 by entering the Powerhouse Museum's rail-related photo competition.

Visit www.powerhousemuseum.com for more details.

The competition closes on Wednesday 31 March 2010.



This weekend 27 & 28 Feb

Sat 27 and Sun 28 Feb **Eastern Suburbs and Illawarra Line** Buses replace trains between Cronulla and Sutherland.

Bankstown Line Buses replace trains between Liverpool and Bankstown.

Inner West Line Buses replace trains between Liverpool and Lidcombe via Regents Park.

South Line Buses replace trains between Glenfield and Granville.

Next week

Mon 1 to Fri 5 Mar **Western Line** Buses replace trains between Richmond and Quakers Hill. Nightly from 7.50pm, buses replace trains between Richmond and Blacktown.

Mon 1 Mar **Inner West Line** From 10pm to 3am, buses replace trains between Ashfield and Central.

Thu 4 Mar **Inner West Line** From 10pm to 3am, buses replace trains between Cabramatta and Lidcombe via Regents Park.

Bankstown Line From 10pm to 3am, buses replace trains between Bankstown and Strathfield via Regents Park.

Note: Buses do not operate to the train timetable. Keep up-to-date with all trackwork affecting your line. Subscribe by email at www.cityrail.info/trackwork

Preview the proposed timetable Eastern Suburbs & Illawarra and South Coast Line stations

CityRail will introduce a timetable for the Eastern Suburbs & Illawarra and South Coast lines in late 2010.

You can view the proposed timetable for these lines now at www.cityrail.info or at your local station.

Invitation to comment

We invite you to comment on the proposed timetable and your views will be considered as part of developing the final timetable. To provide feedback, visit the CityRail website at www.cityrail.info and complete the form or call Transport Info on 131 500 and then press 5. The closing date to provide feedback is 14 March 2010.

For further details about CityRail's proposed timetable for the Eastern Suburbs & Illawarra and South Coast lines, pick up a brochure from your station.

www.cityrail.info
Transport Info 131 500
TTY (Teletypewriter service for hearing and speech impaired customers only) 1800 637 500



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