

MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. Tony Kelly

Hon. Linda Burney MP

Hon. Verity Firth MP

Hon. Virginia Judge MP

Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP

Minister for Planning

Member for Canterbury

Member for Balmain

Member for Strathfield

Member for Marrickville



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Inner West MPs give Light Rail extension the thumbs up

Four Inner West MPs met with Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, at Lilyfield station today where he announced planning approval for the 5.6km extension of the light rail from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill Interchange.

Mr Kelly said the extension will run along the former disused freight corridor.

“This forms a key part of the *Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036* – a \$500 million investment to deliver a light rail network to run from Dulwich Hill to Circular Quay via Central,” Mr Kelly said.

Member for Marrickville, Carmel Tebbutt, said nine new light rail stops will pass through the electorates of Balmain, Marrickville and Canterbury and close to Strathfield.

“My colleagues Verity Firth, Linda Burney, Virginia Judge and I are delighted the go-ahead has been given so that design and construction work can commence in the coming weeks,” she said.

“The community will start to see geotechnical work occurring in and near the rail corridor, to establish ground conditions before construction begins.”

Verity Firth, Member for Balmain, said refurbishment work has already been carried out along the corridor and on existing tracks to ensure the construction phase can begin right away.

“As well as the nine new stations, another fantastic initiative is the GreenWay, the three-metre-wide shared pedestrian and cycle path with bushcare sites,” she said.

“The first phase in the delivery of the project will be the design and construction of the GreenWay from Marion Street, Leichhardt to the existing bike network at Lilyfield Road.

“It will link the Cooks River to Iron Cove and will be a huge asset for the many walkers, joggers and cyclists in the area.”

Linda Burney, Member for Canterbury, said the approval follows months of public consultation, including community information sessions, meetings with residents and a formal public exhibition period.

“The NSW Government has spoken to many people through the consultation program and the most common feedback is that people want us to build this as soon as possible,” she said.

“We will continue to involve and inform the community as the project progresses and we will aim to minimise disruptions to local residents as much as possible during construction.

“I am looking forward to when the projects will be completed by the end of 2012 because I know they will strengthen the connections between our Inner West communities.”

Virginia Judge, Member for Strathfield, said the \$150 million project would generate approximately 350 direct jobs during the construction period.

“This project delivers construction jobs now and will connect communities in the Inner West to key recreational, retail and employment destinations,” she said.

“I know that residents in Strathfield are very excited about the project because the light rail will make commuting easier and the GreenWay will offer improved exercise facilities.”

Further information on the Inner West Light Rail Extension is available at www.transport.nsw.gov.au