Parramatta Light Rail given the green light

Parramatta Light Rail is now full steam ahead, with Stage 1 of the project receiving State Significant Infrastructure planning approval.

Planning approval follows extensive consultation with the public, local businesses and major stakeholders including Westmead Hospital, the Children’s Hospital at Westmead, Western Sydney University, the City of Parramatta Council, Western Sydney Business Chamber and the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce.

The Parramatta Light Rail will create close to 5000 jobs, connect major Western Sydney precincts for the first time and make it possible for people to ‘turn up and go’ to premier restaurant, cultural, entertainment and sports destinations, with services to begin operation in 2023.

Stage 1 of Parramatta Light Rail will link Westmead to Carlingford via Parramatta CBD and Camellia, connecting the Westmead Precinct, the new Western Sydney Stadium, the new Powerhouse Museum, three Western Sydney University campuses and communities at Camellia and Telopea.

Parramatta Light Rail will help Greater Parramatta become more accessible and liveable, with a light rail service every 7.5 minutes in peak periods. It is part of the NSW Government’s $80 billion infrastructure pipeline, which includes the largest transport infrastructure program in Australia, with $43 billion of investment over the next four years.

Major construction will begin in 2019, with some associated road and traffic works to take place in late 2018.

Early Works to begin on Parramatta Light Rail depot

Work is soon to begin on the site of the Parramatta Light Rail depot, following the awarding of the “Early Works” contract to infrastructure service provider Ventia to remediate the light rail Stabling and Maintenance site at 6 Grand Avenue, Camellia, NSW.

The Parramatta Light Rail Stabling and Maintenance facility will house light rail vehicles, as well as maintenance buildings and a control centre to operate the light rail system.

These works are being undertaken to address chemical and asbestos contamination resulting from the land’s long industrial history of chemical manufacturing.

A dedicated Parramatta Light Rail Place Manager for the Camellia area has been in contact with stakeholders, business owners and community members around the site.

For more information, download the Remediation Works fact sheet at www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/library or call the project enquiry line on 1800 139 389.

Find out more at www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au
Stage 2 takes shape

The NSW Government announced a preferred route for Stage 2 of Parramatta Light Rail in late 2017. The proposed Stage 2 route connects to Stage 1 via Parramatta CBD and on to Ermington, Melrose Park, Wentworth Point and Sydney Olympic Park.

On-site surveying is underway in order to understand what lies beneath the preferred route – such as underground utilities services including water, telecommunications, gas and electricity. You may have seen teams surveying north of the Parramatta River along Hope Street, Boronia Street, Wharf Road, and south of the Parramatta River along Australia Avenue, Hill Road, Dawn Fraser Avenue and Carter Street. A Final Business Case for Stage 2 is due to be submitted to the NSW Government by the end of 2018.

Gold star for Parramatta Light Rail

Parramatta Light Rail has joined the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce as a Gold Member! We’re looking forward to building relationships with local businesses and other organisations.

Below: President of the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce, Schon Condon, with Parramatta Light Rail Manager of Engagement and Business Support Vanessa Ferreira and Board Director and Treasurer for Parramatta Chamber of Commerce, Eric Tjoeng.

Shaping the future of Western Sydney

Parramatta Light Rail joined 350 representatives from government, industry and the community in February at Western Sydney University’s ‘Catalyst West’ forum to answer questions and provide information to interested attendees. It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm about the potential for change and innovation in Western Sydney, and we are excited to be part of this thriving community. Visit www.westernsydney.edu.au/catalystwest for more.
Dianne, of Map Centre Parramatta in North Parramatta, has been a business owner in the local area for more than 20 years. She has witnessed firsthand the growth of Parramatta as an emerging CBD, and sees light rail as an environmentally friendly transport solution for the community.

We asked Dianne a couple of questions about life in the heart of Parramatta North...

What do you love most about Parramatta?
“The culturally diverse community and the active plans to improve and develop the area. It’s why I have stayed in North Parramatta this long.”

What’s your favourite spot in Parramatta?
“I enjoy being outdoors and places that hold a lot of history so it would have to be Parramatta Park and St Patrick’s Cemetery.”

What do you think of Parramatta Light Rail?
“Light rail will be fantastic for this area but we know the effect [of construction] on small business can be enormous. Most of my concerns have been allayed by the great assistance and support of the Parramatta Light Rail project team, particularly through place manager Jody.”

What’s Parramatta’s best kept secret?
“A bit of a hidden treasure is the Lake Parramatta Reserve. It is a beautiful spot to kayak and take scenic walking trails.”

Site works underway at Westmead
You may have noticed some ‘high-vis’ activity along Hawkesbury Road, Westmead, as Transport for NSW continues to plan and design Stage 1 of the Parramatta Light Rail.

In Westmead, contractors have been engaged to undertake site investigation work, test ground conditions and identify existing underground utility services such as water, telecommunications, gas and electricity ahead of major construction works. The Parramatta Light Rail project team is working hard to keep the community fully informed and updated on road and traffic changes in their local area, where access may be restricted or temporarily closed. There will be some associated noise during the works. Our project enquiry line is up and running on 1800 139 389 if you have any questions.

Out and about
Since a preferred route for Stage 2 of Parramatta Light Rail was announced last year, the Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 Community Engagement team has hit the ground running, getting out into the community to deliver a series of information and engagement sessions. It has been great to see so many of you there!

So far, we have spoken to more than 1,600 people, with many people asking us how light rail will operate in their community; the way in which it will connect Parramatta to Sydney Olympic Park; and giving us their thoughts on the current proposed route north of the Parramatta River.

We have also been working closely with NSW Government agencies and major stakeholders including the City of Parramatta, Greater Sydney Commission, Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Land and Housing Corporation, Roads and Maritime Services and the Sydney Olympic Park Authority to map out a shared vision for Stage 2, with a focus on the urban design of precincts at Rydalmere, Ermington and Melrose Park.
New wheelchairs for Westmead

The Parramatta Light Rail team is excited to support local charities, community events and initiatives. The team recently raised more than $1,500 through a number of staff fundraising initiatives for the Bandaged Bear Appeal 2018. The team’s donation has helped fund three new wheelchairs for The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

Above, left to right: Parramatta Light Rail Business Support Officer Marian Cabrera and Program Director Tim Poole present a cheque to Westmead’s Brian Jackson, Tim Hoffman, and Dr Ken Peacock.

What’s coming up?

Mid 2018
- Project planning approval
- Early Works begin

Late 2018
- Main Works contracts awarded
- Enabling Works begin
- Final business case for Stage 2 completed

2019
- Main Works begin

2023
- Commence Stage 1 operations

Now and then

When Parramatta Light Rail commences operations it will not be the first time residents of the Parramatta region have had access to such a service. In 1902 a tramway was opened which transported passengers and goods between Parramatta and the farmlands of the Hills district.

The service was later converted to a heavy railway and extended to various areas around the district. It ceased operations in 1932 due to an increase in bus services, which at the time were seen to be more efficient.


Find out more at
www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au