Parramatta Light Rail construction to begin

Construction of the $2.4 billion Parramatta Light Rail will begin this year after two major contracts were awarded to build and operate Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1, connecting Westmead to Carlingford via Parramatta CBD and Camellia along a 12-kilometre network.

Parramatta Light Rail is on its way following the signing of contracts to deliver the $2.4 billion project. An $840 million major contract to build the light rail was awarded to Downer and CPB Contractors in a joint venture, while a $536 million contract to supply and operate the network was awarded to the Great River City Light Rail consortium that includes Transdev, operator of Sydney’s Inner West Light Rail, and CAF Rail Australia, which supplies vehicles for the Inner West and Newcastle light rail networks.

The NSW Government is working hard to mitigate construction impacts, introducing construction ‘grace periods’ over the summer months in the key dining precinct of Eat Street, working to a flexible construction schedule and signing agreements with the major utility providers. Advisory and business reference groups have been set up to give the community a strong voice.

The Parramatta Light Rail is expected to commence services in 2023.

Transport for NSW is committed to providing regular project updates, maps and construction notifications for residents, local businesses and the community. Find out more at www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au.
Australia Day at Parramatta Park

We were delighted to take part in this year's Australia Day events at Parramatta Park. It was great to talk to so many locals (more than 300 of you!) about the Parramatta Light Rail. The community day, put on by the City of Parramatta council, featured a hot-air balloon display, vintage cars, kids' activities, rides, food stalls and hours of entertainment for families, friends and visitors to our city. See where we'll be next at www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/get-involved.

Right: the Parramatta Light Rail team out and about on January 26.

Wire-free in Westmead and Parramatta CBD

Stage 1 of the Parramatta Light Rail will see a combination of overhead wires (also known as catenary) alongside four kilometres of wire-free light rail corridor in Westmead and the Parramatta CBD.

Following extensive stakeholder consultation, in a fantastic outcome for local residents and businesses, the Parramatta Light Rail will be wire free between the Westmead Station and Cumberland Hospital light rail stops, as well as between the Prince Alfred Square and Tramway Avenue stops.

The light rail vehicles will be equipped with roof-mounted batteries that will be charged via the overhead wires and also via an in-ground charger at the Westmead Station light rail stop (see map, above).

Parramatta Light Rail, expected to commence services in 2023, will provide customers with a modern, comfortable and air-conditioned new transport choice. To view the latest route and works maps, visit the Parramatta Light Rail website at www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/maps.
Parramatta’s roads upgraded for all

The Parramatta Light Rail project team has hit the ground running in 2019 with ‘enabling works’ to help improve traffic flow in and around local streets.

The intersection of Victoria Road and O’Connell Street is being upgraded to include additional turn lanes and new traffic lights, while the relocation of utilities – including the installation of a new watermain – commenced in early February on O’Connell Street.

These enabling road works will see George Street in the Parramatta CBD converted from a one-way street into two way, while O’Connell Street in North Parramatta will be widened to four lanes from Barney to Albert Street, to accommodate additional traffic as an alternative to Macquarie and Church Streets.

For more information about the works, visit www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/enabling-road-works.

Building a future for bright minds

Late last year, the NSW Government announced a partnership with the University of Sydney to establish a second campus in Western Sydney as part of a world-class health and education precinct, fully integrated with Parramatta Light Rail and Sydney Metro West. We can’t wait to see this dynamic vision realised.

Artist impression (above) courtesy University of Sydney.

Enjoying Eat Street

As part of our commitment to businesses before and during the building of Parramatta Light Rail, the NSW Government has announced that a construction ‘grace period’ will be in place on Parramatta’s ‘Eat Street’ each year, from the beginning of November to the end of January.

During this period, outdoor dining will be temporarily restored, hoardings will come down, and Transport for NSW will work with local businesses to deliver activities and events to keep attracting people into the Parramatta CBD.

Additionally, Transport for NSW is investigating how Eat Street could benefit from a flexible construction schedule that will take into account evenings and other busy trading times in order to reduce impacts.

For more information on the support and services on offer to local businesses, visit our ‘Working with Businesses’ page at www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/businesses.
Activities ahead
From March to September this year, Parramatta Light Rail contractors Downer CPB Contractors Joint Venture will undertake geotechnical activities and underground services exploration along the Stage 1 light rail route, from Westmead to Carlingford.

Look out for our construction crews on the ground, conducting a range of activities including underground utility investigation, soil sampling and investigation of any heritage and archaeological sites.

Letterbox drops have been conducted for nearby residents and businesses in the area (drop us a line at parramattalightrail@transport.nsw.gov.au if you have not received yours, or for any other questions). You can find our community notifications at www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/library/notifications.

Looking back...
It’s fascinating to take a glimpse at a world gone by and imagine how this 1930s street corner might look when the new Parramatta Light Rail makes its inaugural journey down Church and Macquarie Streets. The Murray Brothers (entrepreneur E.N. Murray and his brother Richard) traded in Parramatta for 102 years before closing their doors in 1978. Pictured (below) is the Murray’s Limited hardware store, erected in 1926, next to the Town Hall in Parramatta’s CBD.

Photo: Church Street, Parramatta, from intersection with Macquarie Street, looking south, c.1930s (LSP00379), City of Parramatta.

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Translating and Interpreting Services
If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Parramatta Light Rail on 1800 139 389

Traditional Chinese
如果您需要一位口译员。请拨打131 450 联络澳洲翻译及传译服务 (TIS National) 并要求他们打电话给Parramatta轻铁 (Parramatta Light Rail) 的电话1800 139 389

Simplified Chinese
如您需要一位口译员，请拨打131 450 联络澳洲翻译及传译服务 (TIS National) 并要求他们打电话给Parramatta轻铁 (Parramatta Light Rail) 的电话1800 139 389

Arabic
إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم، فل Tiến hành التحويلية والترجمة أو الترجمة العربية لمترجمات الحسابات (TIS National) على الرقم 131 450 وأطلب من الإتصال بالساركود (Parramatta Light Rail) على الرقم 1800 139 389

Hindi
यदि आपको एक सिंहाली सेवा की आवश्यकता है तो फ्रेड फ्राइड का सहायता सेवा (TIS National) का 131 450 पर फोन करें और उन्हें बताएं कि आपको पैरामाटा पार्केट लाइट रेल (Parramatta Light Rail) का फोन 1800 139 389 पर फोन करना है

Korean
통역사가 필요할 경우, 전화번호 131 450에 연락하여 서비스를 (TIS National)에 전화한 다음 1800 139 389로 파라마타 라이트 레일 (Parramatta Light Rail)에 전화해 달라고 요청하십시오.