



NEW SYDNEY METRO STATIONS *taken for* TEST RUN



Two life-size station models have recently been unveiled for testing as part of the new Sydney North West Metro (formerly North West Rail Link). Two prototypes – an underground station and above-ground concourse – are being put through their paces as work ramps up on the \$8.3 billion Sydney Metro Northwest – Stage 1 of Sydney Metro, Australia’s biggest public transport project.

We’re taking Sydney’s new metro stations out for a test run to make sure we deliver the best experience possible for commuters. It’s another example of making sure our customers are at the centre this project.

These prototypes are a valuable development tool in finalising station designs and have been used in other major infrastructure projects like Crossrail in London.

Key customer features showcased by the prototypes include:

- Sample platform screen doors at the underground station, showing how this Australian-first safety feature keeps people and objects away from the tracks, also allowing trains to get in and out of stations much faster;
- Working Opal gates and machines;
- Escalators and lifts, station and platform security cameras, video help points, toilets, signage and wayfinding;
- Final finishes like paving, 100 per cent LED lighting and the distinctive energy efficient leaf-design of the above-ground station roofs.



Everything about the design and planning of Sydney Metro Northwest has been considered from the customer’s point of view – from their decision to catch the train in the first place to the end of their journey.

Sydney Metro includes eight new railway stations, five upgraded stations and 4,000 commuter car parking spaces. The project is Stage 1 of Sydney Metro, with metro rail to be extended under Sydney Harbour, through the CBD and beyond to Bankstown by 2024.

FINDING BOOST *for* THE HILLS COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN

I was thrilled to be able to visit The Hills Community Kindergarten with Early Childhood Education Minister Leslie Williams last month.

The Hills Community Kindergarten has achieved a rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standard, a significant achievement.

The NSW Government has boosted funding to community preschools by over \$83 million from 2016 to ensure that every child in the year before school have the opportunity to access quality and affordable preschool education. As a result, The Hills Community Kindergarten has received a 2.5 per cent increase in its base funding rate for 2016. This increase has seen the preschool receive over \$5,500 in additional funding." It is services like these that provide quality early childhood education that give our children the best start.

In addition, services like The Hills Community Kindergarten may be eligible for a further bonus payment of up to 15 per cent of their funding if they enrol additional four and five-year-old children for 15 hours per week. The extra support for community preschools is welcomed news for Baulkham Hills and demonstrates the NSW Government is committed to ensuring access to community preschools.



BIDJIGAL *Reserve*



Aboriginal Affairs Minister Leslie Williams joined myself and members of the Bidjigal Reserve Trust, including Uncle Tony Williams, to trek through the reserve recently.

Bidjigal Reserve forms the cornerstone of our local Indigenous heritage and it is a popular walking track for bushwalkers. The name of the reserve commemorates the Bidjigal people (members of the Darug Nation) who lived in the area prior to European settlement.

Bidjigal Reserve lies in the suburbs of Castle Hill, Baulkham Hills, Northmead, North Rocks, Carlingford and West Pennant Hills and forms a major part of the catchment of Darling Mills Creek.

Bidjigal Reserve contains noteworthy Aboriginal and European cultural heritage, including rock shelters with archaeological deposits. It has been said that 'Pemulwuy', the great aboriginal leader who unified the Darug people in their resistance against British occupation, used the area as a base.

For more information on how you can help preserve this piece of local heritage, or even to just enjoy our local history, visit www.bidjigal.org.au

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

I have recently received a considerable amount of interest about the possible introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS).

I have been on the record since 2013 as being in favour of a CDS and I continue to support the introduction of such a scheme to ensure our Garden Shire retains its character.

Earlier this year the Premier made it his priority to reduce the volume of litter by 40 per cent by 2020.

The proposed CDS will support this ambitious new target. The CDS will help address beverage container litter, which accounts for an estimated 44 per cent of litter volume in NSW.

Every year in NSW around 160 million beverage containers are littered in our communities, including in our streets, parks, beaches and waterways.

Local governments, state agencies, private land managers and community groups spend more than \$162 million managing litter in NSW each year. This is money that could be better spent on other things. A NSW cost-effective CDS will complement existing kerbside recycling systems.

I will continue working with the Premier to ensure the implementation of a CDS which protects our Shire from litter and maintains its pristine beauty.



BAULKHAM HILLS ARTIST

Wins NSW Government Grant

Baulkham Hills artist Hayley French has been awarded \$1250 funding from a NSW Government program to support visual arts, craft and design practitioners develop and showcase their work.

Hayley has been successful through the NSW Government's Artists' Grants Program, which supports visual artists in producing and promoting their work to wider audiences.

Hayley will use the grant to produce and exhibit a new body of work in her first solo exhibition, Hints of things we know, at Galerie pompom, Sydney.

I'm thrilled our local talent has been recognised and I wish Hayley all the best for the future. Our region has a wealth of artistic talent and our Government is ensuring creative talent is supported.

The NSW Government is proud to offer grants of up to \$1,250 for individuals and \$2,500 for groups four times per year and I encourage other local artists to apply in the future.

The grants enable artists to further develop their creative visions and give people who enjoy visual arts a chance to experience diverse new works.

NOMINATE A SENIOR IN BAULKHAM HILLS FOR 2016 LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nominations for the 2016 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Awards are now open and will close on Thursday 24 March. They will be presented as part of the 10-day long NSW Seniors Festival from 1-10 April 2016, formerly NSW Seniors Week. The NSW Seniors Local Achievement



Awards are an opportunity to thank a special senior for everything they do in the community.

We are calling on people to nominate seniors who are making a real difference to the lives of those around them. Whether it is volunteering for a charity, lending a helping hand to a local sporting club or caring for a loved one, older Australians do so much to make our families and communities stronger.

The 2016 NSW Seniors Local Achievement Awards will celebrate seniors' achievements in a range of categories, including business, environment, science, agriculture, health and wellbeing, learning and community service.

It is the largest festival for seniors in the Southern Hemisphere. An estimated 300,000 seniors are expected to attend more than 1,000 free and discounted events throughout the state during the festival. The activities support the objectives of the NSW Ageing Strategy, which was launched to support the health and wellbeing of seniors. For more information, go to <http://www.nswseniorsweek.com.au/>

BAULKHAM HILLS *Community* INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Six projects in Baulkham worth \$200,000 will be funded this year under the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program. There was a strong level of interest from the community for the available funds, with almost 3,000 applications received across NSW. Local businesses and construction jobs will benefit this community infrastructure is built, upgraded and enhanced.

Local projects to receive funding include:

- \$35,000 for disabled access for the community hall, preschool and church at St Matthews Uniting Church;
- \$22,000 for a permanent senior courtyard shade structure at Muirfield High School;
- \$33,000 for modifications to Our Lady of Lourdes; Church Hall in Baulkham Hills;
- \$15,000 for the refurbishment of sports courts at Excelsior Public School;
- \$80,000 for a new community hall for the Coptic Orthodox Church of St Mary, St Kosman and St Demain
- \$13,000 to rebuild the playground at Sun Valley preschool West Pennant Hills.

I look forward to seeing the benefits of these local projects announced today for Baulkham Hills as they are undertaken and more importantly put into use.

MORE THAN 420 EXTRA WEEKLY SERVICES FOR BAULKHAM HILLS BUS CUSTOMERS

Baulkham Hills bus customers will benefit from more than 420 additional weekly services which began in late February.

The NSW Government's recent announcement is a major boost and it will be well received by the thousands of Baulkham Hills customers who are travelling by bus each day.

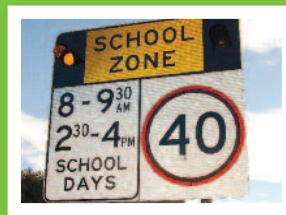


Additional weekly bus services are:

- 158 additional trips per week on route 607X between Rouse Hill and the City via T-way and M2, providing additional weekday services in the early morning, during the day and afternoon peak and evening, as well as additional night services on weekends
- 85 additional trips per week on route 611 between Blacktown and Macquarie Park via Seven Hills and M2, providing additional services to Macquarie University, Macquarie Centre and Macquarie Park during the morning shoulder peak period, and during afternoon peak and evening periods on weekdays
- 20 additional trips per week on route 617X between Rouse Hill and the City via T-way and M2 during early morning, morning peak and afternoon peak on weekdays
- 65 additional trips per week on route 619 between Rouse Hill and Macquarie Park via Kellyville and Castle Hill in the early morning, morning peak and afternoon peak and evenings on weekdays.
- 80 additional trips per week on route 642X between Dural and the City via M2, providing extra weekday services in the early morning, during the day and afternoon peak periods, as well as additional evening services to provide customers with late weeknight travel options from the City
- 20 additional trips per week on route T64 between Rouse Hill and Parramatta via the Norwest Business Park and Norwest Private Hospital, providing additional services during the morning and afternoon peak periods.

Customers can go online and use the trip planner at transportnsw.info. You can also plan trips by downloading real-time transport apps, and Baulkham Hills customers can receive bus service updates for our area by following the new Transport Info Twitter handle @BusesNorthWest. Alternatively, you can call 131 500.

BAULKHAM HILLS *Students safer than ever in 2016*



More than 2,400 school zone flashing lights having been installed since 2011 meaning every eligible school in

NSW is now covered – including those in Baulkham Hills. From now on, if a new school is established at a location without an existing set of flashing lights, Roads and Maritime Services will deliver the lights when they install a new school zone. What's more, with this phase of the flashing lights program finished, we can now focus on rolling out additional flashing lights for around 400 schools with multiple busy entrances, as we announced in June 2015.

Flashing lights remind motorists of the 40km/h speed limit, which applies from 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm on gazetted school days.

HILLS SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT CRITCHLOW

Nominated for Justice Medal



It was an honour to nominate Superintendent Rob Critchlow of the Hills Local Area Command for the 2015 Justice Medal. Superintendent Critchlow has

championed the cause of elder abuse and has provided an important link between the Elder Abuse Helpline and the NSW Police Force, supporting the helpline's activities by providing police assistance to vulnerable older people. Supt Critchlow is also committed to combating domestic violence. The rates of domestic violence have fallen by ten per cent in the past two years since Mr Critchlow's elevation to the role of local area commander.

Rob has also been recognised by Rotary for his work in our community with the Paul Harris Fellowship.

On behalf of the people of Baulkham Hills, thank you to his family for allowing us to benefit from his great service.

Get in touch with David: Phone (02) 9686 3110

Fax (02) 9686 3212 | Address Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Email baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Authorised by David Elliott MP, Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153.
Printed by Zion Graphics, 3 Robertson Place, Bella Vista NSW 2153, using parliamentary entitlements.

