



**RailCorp**

## Media Release

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3 June 2010

### **Central's Clock Tower goes undercover**

*Central Station's iconic Clock Tower was switched off this morning as it goes under covers for a well earned break.*

Keen horologists will note it has been stopped at 10.10, the industry standard for watch and clock advertisements.

For 18 months the sandstone structure of the Clock Tower will undergo extensive restoration works, working off the original plans from 1910.

The clock tower began life at 10.22am on 3 March 1921. In that time it has undergone various renovations, but this will be the longest period it has spent out of service since its construction. Work on the clock tower commenced in 1915, but was delayed by the First World War.

Over \$7 million has been allocated to the project. While on the outside great pains are being taken to match the original design, RailCorp will be taking the opportunity to replace the internal mechanism with a thoroughly modern piece of machinery.

The heritage architect brought on for the project, Otto Cserhalmi, took a steeplejack course allowing him to abseil down the face of the clocktower, personally examining each stone and marking those in need of replacement on a copy of the original plans. Otto Cserhalmi's firm previously worked on the 2005 renovations of Sydney Town Hall.

McCafferty Pyrmont Yellow Block Sandstone from the NSW Government reserve stock is being used to be consistent with the original structure.

The gothic-revival structure at the north-west corner of the station is a key landmark of the area. The four clock faces each have a diameter of 4.77 meters. A total of 302 steps lead up the tower. Lucky workers on the project will be treated to unique views of the south-end of the CBD from the 86 metre high viewing platform.

This project is part of a suite of works in the Central Station precinct aimed at preserving and enhancing the heritage significance of the buildings, colonnade, bridge and retaining walls. The lead contractor for the project, Heritage Building Services, have already taken the covers off other parts of the station, including the Eddy Avenue sandstone overpass.

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