



# Media Release

**David Campbell MP**

**Minister for Transport**

**Minister for the Illawarra**

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## UPGRADE BEGINS AT THIRLMERE RAIL HERITAGE CENTRE

**Sunday 1 March 2009**

NSW Minister for Transport and Minister for the Illawarra David Campbell today turned the first sod to mark the start of an \$8.6 million upgrade to the Rail Heritage Centre at Thirlmere.

Mr Campbell was attending the Thirlmere Festival of Steam and said he expected the upgrade would lead to the Centre becoming a major tourist drawcard for the region.

“The upgraded centre will ultimately offer a highly attractive environment for interactive exhibitions, steam train rides and for the telling of the story of the NSW railways,” Mr Campbell said.

“I expect the centre will become a major tourist attraction and this means increased investment in the region, support for business and jobs for local people.

“There will be great training opportunities created as part of this project through apprenticeship partnerships, where apprentices work on site to restore rolling stock items in the collection.”

Mr Campbell said the NSW Government’s rail heritage strategy builds on the commitment of thousands of volunteers who have spent over 30 years caring for our rail heritage assets.

“Under this strategy we are able to invest in the upgrading of the Centre at Thirlmere which already houses the largest collection of rolling stock for public display.”

Wollondilly MP Phillip Costa said the upgrade is great news for the local community.

“The new Centre will be an impressive attraction to the Wollondilly and McCarthur area,” Mr Costa said.

“The NSW Government is committed to projects which work with local communities and this is a good example of that.

“A lot of people have worked very hard volunteering their time to allow events like today to happen and I thank them for their efforts.

“The NSW Government’s investment in rail heritage is conserving and displaying the State’s core rail assets, developing heritage skills and building on the tradition of rail heritage volunteering.

“The Government will continue to work through RailCorp’s Office of Rail Heritage to partner with volunteer-run rail heritage groups to conserve our heritage for current and future generations to enjoy.”