



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

ESSENTIAL RAIL MAINTENANCE OVER THE LONG WEEKEND

Embargoed until 5am Wednesday 24 September 2008

Minister for Transport David Campbell today urged people to plan ahead if travelling over the October long weekend with essential rail maintenance work to take place on the Northern, South Coast and Newcastle & Central Coast lines.

Mr Campbell said while track work could be an inconvenience to passengers, if people planned ahead, they would avoid such problems.

“The work planned on the Northern Line requires three consecutive days to be completed and will involve the commissioning of the Epping Junction as part of the Epping to Chatswood rail link.

“I know its Grand Final weekend but we’ll have buses replacing trains to ensure people can get where they need to be.

“There’ll be much less inconvenience doing it over the long weekend than there would be if the same work were to be done on a normal Monday or Friday, when thousands are using these important rail services.

“It’s just over a week away so I am getting in early to ensure people can make the appropriate arrangements.

“The work on Northern line is critical to start of the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link.

“Once this work is done, the main Northern Line and the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link will be controlled from a new computerised system established at Homebush.

“The work will also allow commencement of operations on the new platform 2 at Epping.”

“The Northern Line will be closed down from 7pm on Friday 3 October through until Monday night, so buses will replace trains after this time.

“CityRail staff will be located at key areas in the city on Friday night to assist customers and train tickets will be recognised for passengers travelling on STA buses.”

Mr Campbell said track work would also be conducted on the South Coast Line and Newcastle & Central Coast Line over the long weekend, meaning there would be changes after 7pm Friday.

“I would advise people to plan ahead and allow a little extra time to get to their destinations over the long weekend,” Mr Campbell said.

For further information: Brett Zarb – 0417 256 563

“On Grand Final Day frequent announcements will be made at all stations on the Northern Line to keep our passengers well informed.

“Additional train services will also be in place from Central direct to Olympic Park.

“For Northern Line customers more than a dozen buses will be in operation starting at Hornsby, Epping and West Ryde and all integrated tickets will be recognised on those buses.

“Passengers coming from Newcastle and the Central Coast will travel via the North Shore Line and change at Central for an Olympic Park service.”

Over the long weekend multiple events are being held at the Entertainment Quarter at Moore Park. For those travelling to the Randwick races, the Sydney FC game or events like Cirque du Soleil please allow yourself plenty of time to travel to Moore Park.

“Track maintenance work is an important part in maintaining reliable and frequent services, and the October long weekend allows extensive work to be carried out when less people will be using the service.”

For more information on public transport services, go to www.131500.info or call 131 500.

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER – FROM 7PM

Northern Line - Buses will replace trains between Strathfield and Hornsby. The last all stations train to leave Central will be at 6.55pm.

Newcastle & Central Coast Line - Trains will operate via the North Shore Line, to an amended timetable.

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER – MONDAY 6 OCTOBER

South Coast Line - Buses will replace trains between Thirroul and Waterfall; direct trains continue to operate between Kiama and Central to an amended timetable but will not stop at stations between Austinmer and Otford.

Northern Line - Buses replace trains between Hornsby and Strathfield.

Newcastle & Central Coast Line - Trains will operate via the North Shore Line to an amended timetable.