CBD and South East Light Rail

Light rail expansion to transform Sydney

Construction will soon be underway on the $1.6 billion CBD and South East Light Rail that will transform the future of transport in Sydney, deliver over $4 billion worth of economic benefits and create 10,000 jobs for NSW.

Approval has been granted for the NSW Government to build light rail from Circular Quay, through the CBD, to Kingsford and Randwick via Surry Hills, Moore Park and Kensington.
The Inner West Light Rail extension was opened to the public in March 2014, delivering on the NSW Government’s commitment in wider economic benefits for Sydney. Light rail will offer frequent, fast, reliable light rail services and will improve public transport access to Central, the CBD and major destinations in the south east, including Moore Park and University of NSW.

**Conditions of Approval**

The approval of the CSELR project by the Minister for Planning includes conditions, established by NSW Planning and Environment, to address key impacts of the project during design, construction, and operation of light rail. Visual quality and landscape Conditions have been established to minimise impacts to existing vegetation and visual impacts of light rail construction and infrastructure. The project has been designed to mitigate impacts to large trees, where possible. Where the loss of trees is unavoidable, Transport for NSW has committed to planting replacement trees for every significant tree lost within the local area.

Tree species, size and planting locations will be determined in consultation with local councils. Trees close to the alignment that do not require removal would be protected to minimise potential impacts during construction.

**Design**

The Randwick stabilising facility, Rozelle maintenance facility, Anzac Parade pedestrian bridge, Wimbo Park in Surry Hills, and the interchange at High Cross Park in Randwick are subject to design conditions. Further consultation on design will be undertaken through reference groups that will be established.

**Operation**

The conditions also apply to the operation of light rail, such as managing noise and vibration of light rail vehicles, and stabilising and maintenance facilities, and assessing the performance of traffic, access and parking provisions.

Transport for NSW welcomes the conditions of approval and remains committed to ongoing engagement with the community and local stakeholders about the detailed design, construction and operation of light rail. These conditions strengthen the commitments already made through mitigation measures detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement.
Delivery

Public Private Partnership and early works update

There has been strong private sector interest in delivering the expansion of Sydney’s light rail network.

Laing O’Rourke Construction Australia has been appointed as Managing Contractor to carry out early works, starting in coming months.

A Public Private Partnership (PPP), that will design, construct, operate and maintain the 12 kilometre CSELR project, as well as operate and maintain the Inner West Light Rail network, will be awarded ahead of major construction beginning in 2015. The project is due to be complete in four to five years after that.

Service investigation works complete

Extensive service investigation works, verifying locations of existing buried utilities such as water, telecommunications, gas and electricity, have been completed.

During these works, the project team surveyed over 3,500 underground pits and dug over 200 trenches along the 12 kilometre alignment. The data gathered from the service investigation works will play a crucial role in developing the design for the CSELR and will help minimise impacts on businesses, residents, pedestrians and motorists.

Community engagement

Business and community forums

Local businesses and residents are encouraged to be a part of the project. Transport for NSW is establishing local business and community forums in each of the precincts along the route to help prepare businesses for construction and to ensure the community is kept informed during construction.

The local business and community forums are starting now and will run throughout the life of the project.

For more information on, and to take part in, local business and community forums, please visit sydneylightrail.com.au or contact projects@transport.nsw.gov.au or call 1800 684 490.