

# Newsletter

July 2020



Artist Impression of Church Street, Parramatta, during construction of the Parramatta Light Rail.

## A new era for Eat Street

The revitalisation of Parramatta's famous dining strip has begun.

Major construction for the Parramatta Light Rail has begun on Church Street, including 'Eat Street', in the first step towards the revitalisation of the famous dining strip. A construction grace period will see works cease on 1 November 2020 until 1 February 2021, with temporary outdoor dining installed during the busy warmer months and a vibrant program of events and activities to celebrate the area's distinctiveness.

The precinct, closed to car traffic back in February, was among the Sydney business centres impacted by COVID-19 lockdown measures, with businesses temporarily closing or modifying to adapt to social distancing, reduced foot traffic and reduced customer numbers. A number of significant initiatives are underway to support local businesses along the popular dining strip:

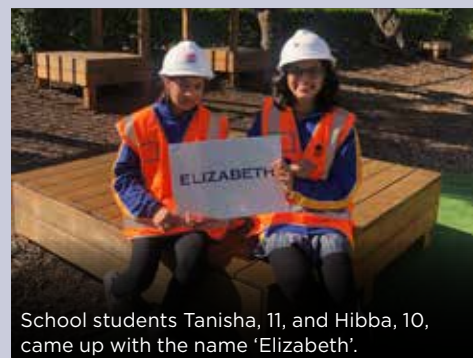
- A new app, 'Activate Parramatta', will be launched to attract visitors to dine or shop at local businesses
- Nearly 2000 metres of colourful shade cloth and hoarding will highlight the array of local businesses to passers-by

- A 'Dine, Scan, Win' shop local campaign will give the community a chance to win weekly prizes from participating restaurants, cafés and takeaway shops
- Realise Business, appointed by Transport for NSW to deliver free business support services, continues to provide guidance.

The 2020 major construction schedule for Parramatta Light Rail along Church Street, Parramatta, will combine innovative technology and inventive engineering to minimise disruption.

Parramatta Connect, the construction delivery partner engaged to carry out these light rail infrastructure works on behalf of Transport for NSW, is using augmented reality and digital 3D technology to map more than 300 underground utility services which will provide real-time updates to inform construction planning.

Upcoming works in the district include the removal of the existing pavement and road surface, deep excavation and moving or replacing underground utilities including water, gas pipes and telecommunication services. Find out more at [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/construction-eat-street](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/construction-eat-street).



School students Tanisha, 11, and Hibba, 10, came up with the name 'Elizabeth'.

The Parramatta Light Rail project will use a micro-tunnelling machine underneath Church Street, Parramatta, to reduce noise and impact compared to standard excavation.

Students from Parramatta North Public School have named the machine 'Elizabeth', in honour of two well-known women in Parramatta's history: Elizabeth Macquarie and Elizabeth Macarthur, each of whom played a significant role in the establishment of New South Wales.

Elizabeth and other micro-tunnelling machines used on the light rail project will travel underground up to 10 metres per day in the Parramatta CBD.

See how micro tunnelling works at [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/micro-tunnelling](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/micro-tunnelling).

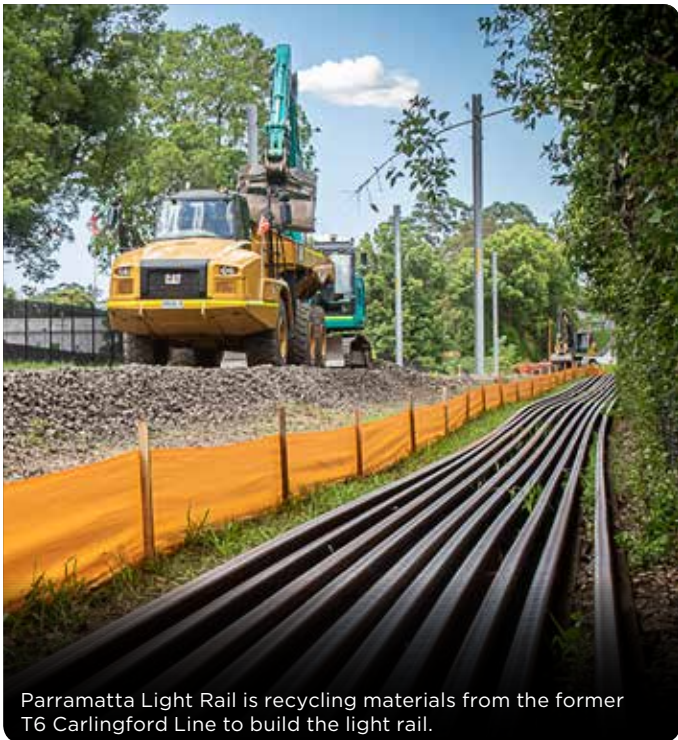
Find out more at

[parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au](http://parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au)





# Rail recycled for future



Parramatta Light Rail is recycling materials from the former T6 Carlingford Line to build the light rail.

Transport for NSW is leading the way in delivering a sustainable transport infrastructure for Sydney's Central River City (Greater Parramatta), recycling tracks and wires that will help to build nearly one-third of the new Parramatta Light Rail alignment.

The project will recycle and repurpose more than 5000 metres of single rail, 13650 rail sleepers, 13000 metres of overhead wires and the track ballast from the old T6 Carlingford Line, which was decommissioned earlier this year for the conversion from single-track railway to dual-track light rail.

Visit [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/carlingford-camellia](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/carlingford-camellia) for more details.

# Stories from our past

Heritage specialists and Aboriginal representatives have been conducting archaeological testing and heritage salvage works along the Parramatta Light Rail alignment, in this instance by hand.

Recently, in the Cumberland Hospital precinct, the project's specialists discovered a number of Aboriginal stone artefacts, heating pits and associated ironstone pieces. It is believed these finds (pictured, inset) were originally used by Aboriginal peoples in the area around 6,000 years ago to 'cook' ironstone, potentially for making red-pigmented 'ochre', or paint.

The next step for our archaeologists is to analyse the objects found during the Cumberland Hospital precinct investigations, and continue consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties to determine where, and how, these artefacts should be preserved.

Find out more about the process at [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/heritage](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/heritage).



Above (L to R): Heritage specialists conduct investigative works; a heating pit and ironstones, Aboriginal finds thought to be thousands of years old.

# Royal Oak heritage: preserving the past

The Royal Oak Hotel in Parramatta, which dates from the 1800s, was recently demolished ahead of Parramatta Light Rail construction. Although the hotel on Church Street was not on the state heritage register, it had community significance. Its proximity to the street's edge meant its removal was required in order to provide enough space for light rail, traffic and pedestrians.

During removal works, the project's heritage specialists identified historic materials from the original building, from exterior tiles and laneway wall bricks to sandstone foundation blocks, that will be recorded and preserved. These will be given to the City of Parramatta Council or offered to local historical societies for public display.

The former Cobb & Co Stables, at the rear of the Royal Oak Hotel, form an important part of the property's local heritage listing and is being retained and protected by Transport for NSW.

A new, reimagined Royal Oak Hotel is understood to be opening across the road in the coming months.

For further background, visit our website at [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/royal-oak-hotel](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/royal-oak-hotel).



The Royal Oak Hotel where it stood on Church Street, Parramatta.



# Love for local roads

Not all light rail preparation is about digging trenches and laying tram tracks – some important road upgrades were completed recently as part of the Parramatta Light Rail program of works.

While not all directly on the light rail route, these road network upgrades will provide additional capacity for commuters in and around the Parramatta area.

The widening and resurfacing of Hawkesbury Road, in association with the Westmead Redevelopment, marks the completion of light rail preparation works in the Westmead Health Precinct, including new footpaths for the community and the provision of vital access to the Westmead Redevelopment’s new Central Acute Services Building.

Major works can now begin for the light rail at Westmead, which will transport thousands of workers and students around one of Australia’s largest health, education, research and training hubs.

Across town, O’Connell Street between Barney and Albert Streets in North Parramatta has been widened to four lanes, following the recent



A view of Bankwest Stadium at O’Connell Street, Parramatta.



A newly resurfaced and widened road at Westmead.

transformation of George Street in Parramatta’s CBD to a two-way road, also part of the program.

Bear with us while we unroll the new traffic arrangements and look forward to a transformed Parramatta on your next drive!



O’Connell Street, North Parramatta, outside Parramatta Gaol.

# Greening Parramatta

At least 3500 trees are being planted over four years as part of the Parramatta Light Rail program, bringing shade to some of the hottest streets in the local area.

The planting program includes five mature fig trees and at least 76 fig tree cuttings to replace a cluster of seven fig trees to be removed for light rail works in the Cumberland Hospital precinct and three at Robin Thomas Reserve.

The mature fig trees and cuttings, or clippings, from the fig trees will be propagated (nurtured and grown) and re-planted along the alignment over the next few years once they reach above one metre in height.

Over the next few years, the project expects to plant at least 3500 new trees along the light rail route and in surrounding streets and neighbourhoods. By 2023, there will be more trees in Parramatta than before as a result of the light rail tree planting program.

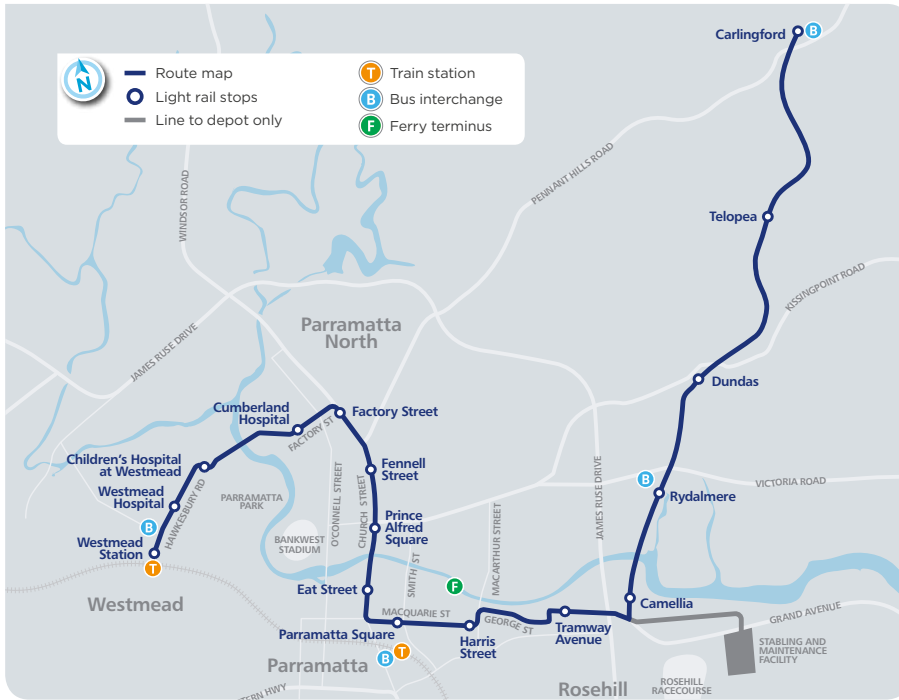
For more, visit our ‘Trees’ community information page at [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/trees](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/trees).



Pictured, right: trees planted outside the historic Parramatta Gaol.

# Where will the light rail go?

The \$2.4 billion Parramatta Light Rail will connect Westmead to Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD and Camellia, with the network expected to commence passenger services in 2023.



# What's next?

## Mid-2020

- Enabling road works completed
  - Hawkesbury Road widening works completed
- Major construction begins on Parramatta's 'Eat Street'

## Late-2020

- Construction continues along the 12-kilometre corridor
- 1 November: A construction 'grace period' takes effect on Eat Street, Parramatta, until 1 February 2021

## 2023

- Parramatta Light Rail commences services, running every 7.5 minutes during peak periods



Main infrastructure works for the Parramatta Light Rail.

# Construction ramps up

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult and challenging time for many, whether you've been working from home, studying or attempting to 'home school' your children.

Work on the Parramatta Light Rail continues along the 12-kilometre alignment and construction crews are working extended hours to get the job done, in light of changed business arrangements and guidelines introduced by the NSW Government in response to COVID-19 lockdown measures.

Transport for NSW is investigating every opportunity to carry out works during standard construction hours. Where these may cause significant disruption, work may still need to be carried out in the evening or at night.

Although we cannot catch up with you face to face while we all try to limit the spread of COVID-19, we invite you to call our 24-hour community information line at any time on 1800 139 389. You can view recent Construction Notifications at [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/library/notifications](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/library/notifications).



## Translating and Interpreting Services

If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone Parramatta Light Rail on 1800 139 389.

### Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة والترجمة الفورية (TIS National) على الرقم 131 450 واطلب منهم الاتصال بالسكك الحديدية الخفيفة بباراماتا (Parramatta Light Rail) على الرقم 1800 139 389

### Traditional Chinese

如果您需要一位口譯員，請撥打131 450 到筆譯與口譯服務 Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)，要求他們撥打 Parramatta 輕軌 (Parramatta Light Rail) 的電話 1800 139 389

### Simplified Chinese

如果您需要一位口译员，请拨打131 450 到笔译与口译服务 Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)，要求他们拨打 Parramatta 轻轨 (Parramatta Light Rail) 的电话 1800 139 389

### Hindi

यदि आपको दुभाषिण की आवश्यकता है तो कृपया अनुवाद व दुभाषिया सेवा (TIS National) को 131 450 पर फोन करें और उनसे कहें कि वह पैरामाटा लाईट रेल (Parramatta Light Rail) से टेलिफोन नम्बर 1800 139 389 पर फोन मिला दें

### Korean

"통역사가 필요할 경우, 전화번호 131 450의 번역 및 통역 서비스 (TIS 내셔널)에 전화한 다음 1800 139 389로 파라마타 라이트 레일 (Parramatta Light Rail)에 전화해 달라고 요청하십시오."



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