

# Newsletter

December 2020



Pictured: Parramatta Light Rail tracks laid at the Westmead Health Precinct

## First light rail tracks laid

### Parramatta Light Rail on track at Westmead

The Westmead Health Precinct is a step closer to more modern, convenient public transport from 2023, with the first tracks laid for the \$2.4 billion Parramatta Light Rail.

The new tracks at Hawkesbury Road, Westmead, show that significant progress has been made on the network that will connect Westmead to Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD and Camellia to support the growth of one of the largest medical, education and research hubs in the southern hemisphere.

The track installed at Westmead consists of 18-metre lengths of grooved rail weighing almost one tonne each, set in a concrete slab that covers drainage and utility services.

Along with rail, bus and the future Sydney Metro West, the 'turn up and go' light rail will cater to



an expected population of more than 40,000 staff and 30,000 students, with services every 7.5 minutes in peak periods. The light rail project is also supporting 5,000 jobs as the post-COVID economy is rebuilt in NSW.

The 48-metre track installation follows months of preparation including the relocation of underground utilities and the widening of Hawkesbury Road, Westmead, in association with the Westmead Redevelopment, one of the biggest health infrastructure projects in NSW.

Track will continue to be installed in sections across the alignment, with trackwork due to commence in Carlingford in December and in Parramatta's 'Eat Street' and the Cumberland Hospital Precinct in the new year.

Find out more at

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







This summer, Transport for NSW is bringing Parramatta to life with interactive installations and family-friendly activities. Grab a take-away meal from 'Eat Street' and come down to join the fun.

## in Parramatta

For dates and locations, visit [activateparramatta.com.au](http://activateparramatta.com.au)





## Bridges built for light rail

As part of the Parramatta Light Rail program of works, six new bridges are under construction and five are being modified in Westmead, Parramatta, Camellia, Rosehill and Dundas to support light rail and active transport (walking and cycling).

Light rail is also being sensitively incorporated into a number of historic bridges, with the 1839 Lennox Bridge in Parramatta's CBD converted to support light rail and pedestrians instead of car traffic, and the Parramatta River Bridge at Camellia widened to accommodate active transport.

A new 417-tonne steel arch bridge – the biggest on the project – is under construction over James Ruse Drive at Rosehill (pictured, below).



Above: View of construction at James Ruse Drive, Rosehill.

## Graveyard shift



Pictured: light rail works outside St Patrick's Cemetery.

Archaeological testing outside the modern-day bounds of Parramatta's historic St Patrick's Cemetery has led to design adjustments – including a custom-made shallow pavement and construction methods that minimise ground excavation – to ensure that recent light rail construction works did not disturb five suspected burial sites from earlier phases of the cemetery, as its boundaries have shifted over the decades.

St Patrick's is the final resting place of Catholic convicts and exiled Irish rebels, as well as early Irish priests of Parramatta and inmates of historic institutions including the Female Factory, Military Barracks, the Benevolent Asylum, the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian Orphan Schools, Sydney and Parramatta Hospitals, and the Poor House.

## 'Eat Street' light rail works fast-tracked

Major light rail construction on Parramatta's 'Eat Street' dining strip will be fast-tracked for completion in mid-2021, returning the precinct to sophisticated outdoor dining as quickly as possible.

Amending the construction schedule in response to COVID-19 will see work continue through a previously planned three-month construction break, bringing forward the completion of major construction. Transport for NSW consulted with the Parramatta Light Rail Business Reference Group and Eat Street businesses about whether to fast-track the works in lieu of the planned grace period; ninety per cent of those who voted were in favour of fast-tracking.

A celebration of the completion of major construction, known as 'Eat Street Uncovered', will now take place from August 2021 before the second phase of light rail works – installation of light rail stops, testing and commissioning – begins. Light rail tracks are expected to be laid in January.

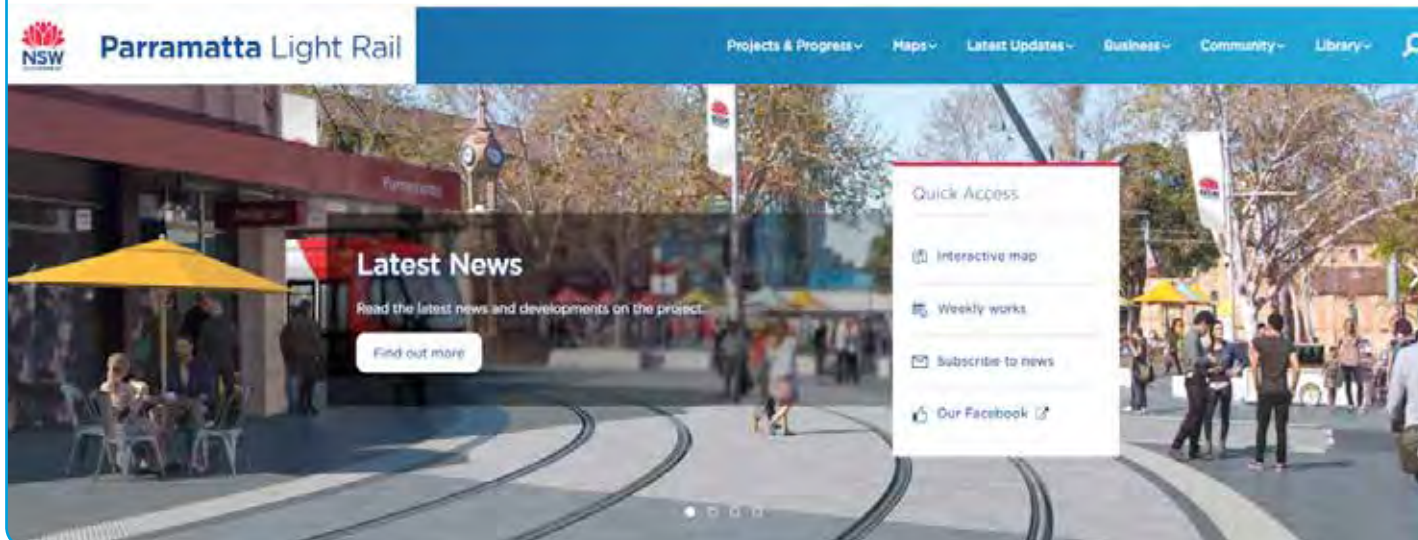


Light rail works on Church Street, Parramatta.



# Join us online

The Parramatta Light Rail website has been given a fresh new look and feel, making it easier for you to access maps, photos, fact sheets, construction notifications and information on our business support initiatives. Connect with our team, dive into the gallery and learn more about the work we're doing to deliver Sydney's next light rail network at [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au).



## A home for heritage

The Cumberland Hospital Precinct is beginning to take shape, with Parramatta Light Rail construction teams building a new river jetty and a light rail bridge across the Parramatta River, beside Bridge Road, and installing services such as electricity, gas, sewerage and communications. Archaeological monitoring continues, resulting in finds such as rare glass Aboriginal artefacts (pictured, below) that will be assessed by experts to determine their historical usage.

In early 2021, tracks will be laid near the future Cumberland Hospital Precinct light rail stop. This area will be wire free and feature 'green track' to preserve its heritage character.



Heritage excavation in the Cumberland Hospital Precinct.



Aboriginal glass artefacts found at Cumberland.

## What a drain

Who knew drainage could look so...appealing? This discreet drainage solution under the pavement is part of light rail works recently completed in Parramatta's Eat Street.



THANK YOU for your patience and understanding this year. We know our works can be disruptive and we really appreciate your support.





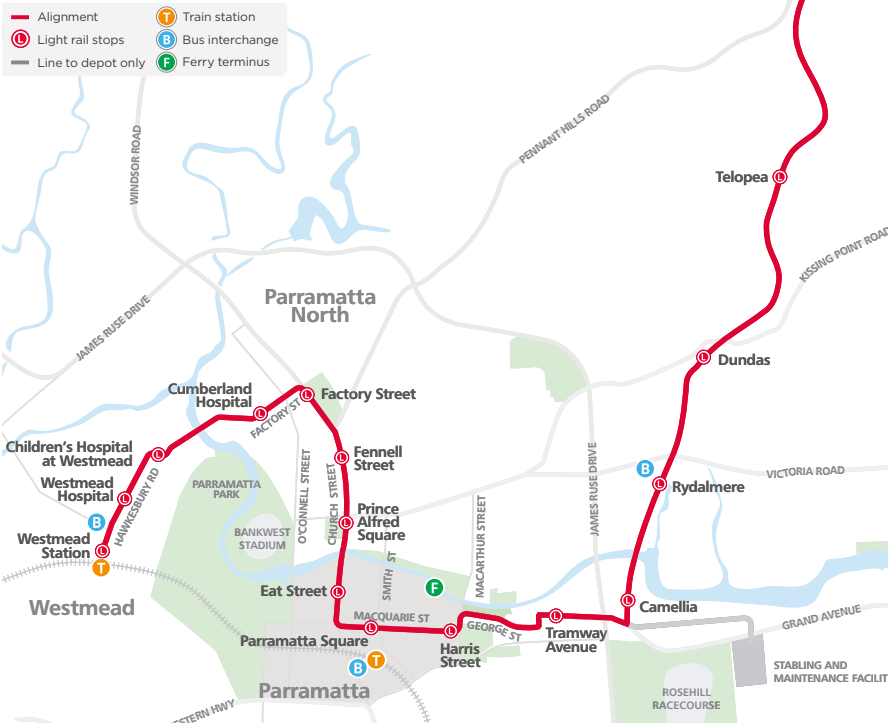
**From Carlingford to Camellia, Westmead to Parramatta and everywhere in between, support your local businesses this festive season.**

Transport for NSW is proudly supporting local businesses during construction of the Parramatta Light Rail. Visit [parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/businesses](http://parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/businesses) to find out more.



# The light rail route

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?

## Early 2021

- Trackwork commences in North Parramatta, the Cumberland Hospital Precinct and in Eat Street, Parramatta CBD
- Construction of the five-kilometre walking and cycling path begins
- 417-tonne steel arch bridge complete at James Ruse Drive, Rosehill

## Mid 2021

- Remediation works completed on the site of the Stabling and Maintenance Facility in Camellia
- Light rail infrastructure works completed in Eat Street

## 2023

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

# Insta-worthy artworks

A collection of interactive artworks will deliver vibrant new Parramatta scenery for visitors and locals over the summer holidays. Commissioned by Transport for NSW to 'activate' key precincts during construction of the Parramatta Light Rail, the large-scale artworks will feature augmented reality (AR) technology that will see them come to life with moving parts when viewed through the lens of a smart phone.

Artists Shannon Boyd and Keith Stanley (whose painting is pictured, **right**) will paint their works live for audiences at Centenary Square and Prince Alfred Park, while Indigenous artist Geoff Sellman's work, featuring the journey of eels in the Aboriginal Dreamtime, will be on show at Riverside Theatres. The initiative is part of Activate Parramatta, a plan to support local businesses during light rail construction. Until **1 February 2021** at various locations; visit [activateparramatta.com.au](http://activateparramatta.com.au).



**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 والتفسير الفورية (TIS National) على الرقم 131 450 واطلب منهم الاتصال بالاسكك 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.”



**Like us on Facebook**  
at [facebook.com/ParramattaLightRail](https://facebook.com/ParramattaLightRail)

