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ROAD AND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE SPEND SURGES AHEAD

Unprecedented investment in road and rail projects across NSW will be taken to the next level, with \$55.6 billion allocated across the next four years to invest in transport infrastructure, easing congestion and keeping the community moving.

This includes \$32.2 billion for public transport projects and \$23.4 billion for road projects.

Minister for Transport and Roads Andrew Constance said this investment will deliver on the massive commitments made to improve transport connections and services.

“The Government has invested billions of dollars in road and rail projects across Sydney which has improved journeys throughout Greater Sydney,” Mr Constance said.

“This has included investment on all stages of WestConnex, with tunnelling on the New M5 now complete, and the New M4 Tunnels almost ready to open to traffic.

“Once complete, these projects will transform the way drivers travel around Sydney, bypassing up to 52 sets of traffic lights to provide faster, safer and more reliable trips.

“Construction of the Rozelle Interchange and Iron Cove Link will start later this year and planning and preconstruction work is continuing for the Western Harbour Tunnel, Beaches Link and the first stage of the F6 Extension.”

Mr Constance said the 2019-20 Budget also provides more than \$300 million to improve accessibility for rail customers, part of an \$885 million spend on the Transport Access Program over 4 years. The Government has committed to deliver a further 68 station upgrades. This includes the renewal of Redfern, Beecroft, Bexley North, Canley Vale, Como, Faulconbridge, Goulburn, Hawkesbury River, Lapstone, Mittagong, Roseville, Wahroonga, Warrawee, Wyee and Wollstonecraft stations.

These upgrades will make 90 per cent of all public transport journeys accessible and bring the total spend to \$2 billion.

The budget ensures progress on the New Intercity Fleet, with \$812 million towards the new trains. The fleet is designed to bring a new level of comfort, safety and accessibility for customers travelling between Sydney, the Central Coast, Newcastle, the Blue Mountains and the Illawarra. A new maintenance facility will also be built at Kangy Angy, near Wyong.

In Sydney, the last of 24 new air-conditioned eight-car Waratah Series 2 trains is expected to be on the tracks within weeks, with another 17 on order. These new trains are part of the More Trains, More Services Program, which will deliver additional services on the Illawarra, Airport and South Coast lines. The 2019-20 Budget includes \$3.2 billion over four years to continue the program.

The North West Metro opened last month on time and \$1 billion under budget while construction continues on the City & Southwest Metro line through the city and out to Bankstown. Tunnelling is progressing well between Chatswood and Sydenham, and this Budget includes \$1.2 billion to continue delivery of this project.

This year's Budget includes \$6.4 million over four years for Metro West, delivering on the NSW Government's promise to accelerate construction of this landmark project.

Mr Constance said transport projects in development and delivery are game-changers for Sydney.

Work is ramping up on the Parramatta Light Rail project, with \$561 million in the Budget for the project this year. This new line will connect Westmead and Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD and Camellia and is expected to open in 2023.

Mr Constance said major motorways aren't the only roadways receiving attention, with many local roads receiving much-needed upgrades.

"Western Sydney is one of the fastest growing regions in NSW which is why the NSW Government has committed a further \$480 million to upgrade sections of Mamre and Mulgoa roads.

"As part of this allocation, a 3.8 kilometre section of Mamre Road between the M4 Motorway and Erskine Park Road will be widened to four lanes, benefiting drivers for years to come," Mr Constance said.

Critical pinch points across Sydney are also receiving attention, with an additional \$450 million committed to ease congestion at key traffic bottlenecks.

In addition to this infrastructure investment, the recurrent transport budget of \$14.4 billion will fund operation of transport services and commitments such as the Regional Seniors Transport Card.

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