Light Rail Benefits

The CBD and South East Light Rail will provide sustainable and reliable modern transport from the CBD to Sydney’s South East that will meet the needs of the community now and into the future.

- Light rail is a critical part of Sydney's transport future.
- An extra million people are expected to live and work in Sydney over the next 10 years. Trips to the city will increase by a quarter and trips within the city centre will increase by a third by 2031.
- The NSW Government is investing in an integrated transport network to meet that demand with major CBD train station upgrades, Wynyard Walk, Barangaroo Wharf, the Metro system and new light rail services.
- Light rail is a game-changing project for the CBD and the South East, delivering more public transport capacity and better reliability for our congested city. This project will generate $3 billion in economic benefit for NSW.
- A combined bus and light rail network will significantly improve public transport access to major sporting and entertainment facilities at Moore Park and Randwick along with the University of NSW, TAFE and health precincts. Additional light rail services will provide extra capacity for major events.
- Light rail will provide reliable, efficient, turn-up-and-go public transport with services every four minutes between CBD and Moore Park and every eight minutes to and from Randwick and Kingsford between 7am and 7pm. Each vehicle will carry up to 450 people, equivalent to nine standard buses with a capacity of up to 13,500 passengers per hour (up to 6,750 in each direction).
- Light rail will deliver a significant improvement in reliability for South East customers travelling to the CBD, in addition to peak express bus routes which will remain in service, supported by some all-stops and cross-regional routes as well as some new services to the light rail interchanges.
- Current planning would see a combined light rail and bus network deliver citybound morning peak capacity increases of more than 10 per cent from Kingsford and 30 per cent from Randwick, and a doubling of morning peak capacity from the CBD to UNSW and the Randwick hospital precinct.
- The redesign of the network will be based on the patronage and demand evidenced by Opal data (i.e. actual origin – destination information) as well as opportunities to provide improved connections for customers and meet emerging sources of demand such as cross-regional travel.
- Light rail is a catalyst for urban renewal. Sydney’s commitment to light rail has been followed by a boom in construction along the route. More than 120 government and private sector projects are in planning or construction in the CBD alone.
- The $2.1 billion CBD & South East Light Rail has a benefit-cost ratio of 1.4, meaning for every $1 spent, $1.40 of benefit will be created for the state.
- On 31 May 2019, Transport for NSW entered into a revised Public Private Partnership with ALTRAC for the delivery and operation of the CBD and South East Light Rail project. This includes an additional sum of up to $576 million over the duration of an extended PPP term to 2036.
- The final cost and an updated benefit-cost analysis will be determined following project completion and a final completion review by Infrastructure NSW.

Travel Choices

The Travel Choices Program offers free information, advice and support to help organisations and customers adapt their travel behaviours to more sustainable ways of moving in, out and around Sydney.

Travelling through or servicing the City

- Construction of new transport infrastructure in the CBD will mean road users will have to reconsider travel options.
- CBD road users are encouraged to plan ahead and check the latest network information by visiting the Live Traffic website or calling the Traffic Information Line on 132 701.
- If you have travel by car to the city, use selected priority driving routes around the edge of the CBD which can be found online at mysydneycbd.com.au
- A specialist freight team has been established through Transport for NSW’s Sydney Coordination Office to help commercial drivers, tradespeople and businesses along the route to plan ahead.
- Transport for NSW is working closely with businesses and commercial drivers to manage changes to the road network. We’re trialling the retiming of deliveries to outside peak periods, consolidating deliveries to reduce the number of vehicles entering the CBD and investigating off-street loading and parking options.