Construction comes to Surry Hills

Construction has come to Surry Hills, with work starting on Devonshire Street, between Chalmers and Elizabeth Streets, in early September 2016. A program of improvements is being rolled out as part of the light rail construction in this area. Power lines will be put underground and pocket parks will be delivered along Devonshire Street. Pocket parks are small, landscaped spaces that improve the visual amenity of an area and allow pedestrians to move through and make use of areas that can’t be accessed by vehicles.

The start of work in Surry Hills is another significant milestone for the project, with construction underway in more than half of our construction zones across the 12 kilometre alignment: 16 of 31 zones are now active, including work on the tunnel under Anzac Parade at Moore Park.

Work is starting in three more zones, on George Street between Liverpool Street and Rawson Place, during October 2016.

Nine hundred people are currently working on the project, and this number will rise to 1500 at the peak of construction. The project will be completed and operating in 2019.

First track laid for the CBD and South East Light Rail

The first light rail tracks have now been laid on the project, marking an exciting stage in constructing the CBD and South East Light Rail. NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance joined the construction team, and had the honour of pouring the first concrete to secure the tracks in place.

More tracks will be laid in multiple zones over the coming months. There’s a lot of work that goes into laying the tracks, and inside this newsletter we’ve provided some more detail on the process behind it.
How was the light rail track laid?
Take a behind-the-scenes look at how our first light rail track was laid in Kensington, in August 2016:

1. Rail arrived in Australia by cargo ship and was delivered to the Rainbow Street rail yard in Kingsford. The rail has a specific grooved profile for light rail which is only manufactured in Europe – ours is sourced from a high quality Austrian supplier. The rust on the steel is due to natural oxidisation, the top surface will become shiny when the light rail is running on the tracks.

2. The road surface was excavated and the conduits laid under the road surface to carry the power, communications and services for the light rail. A special concrete ‘lean mix’ was used for the base, ready for the construction of the track slab.

3. Rail was delivered to site from the rail yard in Kingsford. Each piece of rail is 18m long and weighs one tonne. The work was carried out at night so that Anzac Parade could be closed, due to the size of the equipment needed to move the long and heavy pieces of rail.

4. The rail was set to the correct gauge using specialist rail jigs that allow the specific track design alignment and heights to be achieved and held firm during the concrete pour.

Did you know?
Across the 12km light rail alignment, more than 48,000 linear meters of single rail will be laid, with a total weight of over 3,000 tonnes.
Individual lengths of rail were welded together on site, using the aluminothermic rail welding process.

The concrete was poured around the tracks using a mobile boom pump and completed with a light broom finish.

With our first completed tracks in place, we look forward to more of our 12km route being laid in the coming months.

Heritage bricks unearthed in the CBD

A small piece of Sydney’s history was discovered in August during utility excavation works in Zone 4, George Street between Hunter and King Streets.

Construction works revealed the remains of a drain built with sandstock bricks dating from the early 1800s. These remains provide some interesting information about early Sydney.

Finds like this one highlight the complexity of building light rail in George Street. Despite an unprecedented amount of detailed investigation before construction started, surprises remain hidden under the surface.

A detailed record of the brickwork was carried out by the archaeological team, and the bricks removed, before light rail drainage work continued in this location.

A brick drain dating back to the early 1800s was uncovered during light rail construction.

For more information: sydneylightrail.com.au
Figs trees find a new home in Heffron Park

Seven fig trees were transplanted from our work zone at Moore Park during August and taken to a new home in Heffron Park, Maroubra.

The trees were cared for and prepared for removal for weeks before they were carefully extracted from the ground, as part of our commitment to retain as many trees as possible during construction of the project. The root balls and branches of the trees were carefully protected before the trees were transported to their new location.

After they are transplanted, ongoing care is provided to give the trees the best opportunity to flourish in their new location - so they can be enjoyed by the community for decades to come.

Final George Street construction zones to get underway in October

Construction will start in George Street, between Liverpool Street and Rawson Place, from 14 October 2016.

This marks an important point in the project, with all George Street construction zones activated, from Circular Quay to Rawson Place.

We will be working closely with stakeholders in the local area to ensure that Haymarket and Chinatown remain vibrant, cultural centres that are open for business during light rail construction.

Construction will start at the same time in the final three George Street zones, to minimise change and disruption in the CBD south:

- **Zone 9**: George Street, between Liverpool and Goulburn Streets
- **Zone 10**: George Street, between Goulburn and Hay Streets
- **Zone 11**: George Street, between Hay Street and Rawson Place.

Lane closures will be in place on George Street, with general traffic travelling in a northbound direction only.

For up-to-date information about traffic changes, visit [livetraffic.com](http://livetraffic.com)

For maps and information about CBD access, visit [mysydney.com.au](http://mysydney.com.au)