

**NEW \$316 MILLION RICHMOND LINE EXPANSION TO INCREASE RAIL CAPACITY**

State Plan Priority S6: Increasing share of peak hour journeys on a safe and reliable public transport system

Monday 20 November 2006

NSW Premier, Morris Iemma today announced a **\$316 million extension of the Government's \$1.5 billion Rail Clearways Plan** that will further boost rail capacity in Sydney's growing North West region.

The Government will extend the planned duplication of the Richmond Line beyond Schofields and as far north as Riverstone by 2010, and Vineyard by 2012.

"Currently the Richmond Rail Line from Quakers Hill consists of only one track – which limits the number of trains and services we can run at any one time," Mr Iemma said.

"Once complete, this major expansion will enable the doubling of peak rail services from Riverstone and Vineyard to the CBD.

"It means we'll be able to offer more peak hour services to cater for forecast patronage growth on the line, expected to reach 4,500 peak passengers by 2011."

Under the existing Clearways program, \$116 million had been secured to duplicate the track between Quakers Hill and Schofields by 2010, with \$410,000 being spent this year for concept designs and assessment works.

NSW Minister for Transport, John Watkins said the expanded duplication project would complement the accelerated first stage of the North West Rail Link, also announced today, in a big win for North West rail commuters.

"Combined with the \$2.25 Epping to Chatswood Rail Link, which will come on line in 2008, these massive rail infrastructure projects will provide more capacity and public transport options for people in Sydney's North West."

The new \$316 Richmond Duplication plan will:

- Stage 1 - Duplicate the Richmond Line to Riverstone by 2010;
- Stage 2 – Duplicate the Richmond Line to Vineyard by 2012;
- Stage 2 – Upgrade Vineyard Station and create a new transport interchange;
- Double peak hour services to four trains per hour; and
- Cater for forecast patronage growth on the line from 2700 peak hour passengers in 2006 to 4500 in 2011.

The Iemma Government's \$1.5 billion Clearways Plan includes \$207.8 million in funding in 2006/07 for projects including:

- \$35.8 million for completion of the new stabling yards at Macdonaldtown;
- More than \$64 million for continuation of works on rail turnbacks at Homebush, Lidcombe and Revesby;
- \$32 million for continuation of works on the Cronulla Line Duplication Project;
- More than \$48 million for work on a new platform and stabling yards at Hornsby Station;

- \$2.5 million for the completion of an additional platform and passenger facilities at Berowra Station ;
- More than \$10 million for continuation of works on the Kingsgrove to Revesby Quadruplication Project;
- More than \$8.7 million for initial assessment and design works on the Liverpool Turnback and an additional platform on Macarthur Station; and
- Around \$1 million for concept design works on the Carlingford Line Loop.

Mr Watkins said Clearways consisted of 15 key projects to untangle the complex CityRail network by reducing the current 14 lines into five lines.

This will remove bottlenecks, and mean an incident on one line is less likely to affect services on others.