



**23 February, 2009**

## **Premier opens Epping to Chatswood Rail Link**

NSW Premier Nathan Rees and Transport Minister David Campbell today rode the first train on the \$2.3 billion Epping to Chatswood Rail Link and officially opened the line at the new Macquarie University Station.

Premier Rees said the impressive new link included underground train stations at **Macquarie University, Macquarie Park, and North Ryde.**

“This is a multi-billion investment in jobs, in Sydney’s transport needs and in a better future,” Mr Rees said.

Mr Rees said the new link was made up of state-of-the-art stations, wide open concourses and 12.5 kilometres of underground rail tunnel.

“This is an impressive piece of major public transport infrastructure.”

“Over 12,500 people worked a combined total of 13 million hours on this project, drilling the tunnels, putting down the tracks and fitting out the stations.

“They deserve to be congratulated on a job well done.

“The new rail link will deliver huge benefits for local businesses and the University.

“This rail link opens up two booming business and education precincts with Macquarie Park home to around 30,000 employees and the University having some 30,000 students and 2,000 staff.

“The Rail Link will continue to create jobs and stimulate the local economy at a time when business needs a good boost.”

Transport Minister David Campbell said the new service would first run as a shuttle between Epping and Chatswood before being integrated into the rest of the CityRail network.

“The trains will operate between Epping and Chatswood every 15 minutes in both directions on weekdays and at weekends, operating from around 6am to 9.30pm,” Mr Campbell said.

“The link will put around 12,000 extra people on the City Rail network every day, once fully integrated.

“Fast, efficient public transport is key to commercial expansion in North Ryde, which is set to become the fourth largest business district in Australia over the next 25 years.

“Once integrated into the wider CityRail network the Rail Link will deliver benefits to passengers in other parts of Sydney, such as those who live on the Western Line.

“The new link will free up space between Strathfield and the CBD allowing some peak train services to be extended and new services to be slotted in.”

Premier Rees said to celebrate the opening, commuters travelling between Epping and Chatswood to any of the new stations would be able to do so for free up until June 8.

“It’s important to note that travelling along the Epping to Chatswood rail link will be free of charge only if you are alighting at one of those stations on the link,” Mr Rees said.

“Today’s opening is a celebration and a day to thank those who have made the opening of this link possible.”