



MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast
John Robertson MLC

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LOCALS ENCOURAGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The NSW Government today released the Central Coast Regional Transport Strategy and is encouraging local residents and businesses to have their say.

Minister for Transport and Minister for the Central Coast John Robertson said the Regional Transport Plan will build on recent announcements to ensure the transport challenges on the Coast continue to be met.

“By 2036 the Central Coast population is forecast to grow by 120,000 people - with 45,000 new jobs predicted by 2031,” Mr Robertson said.

“With the level of population and employment growth that is expected over the coming years, an integrated and well connected transport system is essential for the Central Coast.

“The plan includes new buses and trains, upgrades to stations, new commuter car parks and major investments in road infrastructure.

“This month the Government announced that 41 brand new buses will be provided to the Central Coast, delivering over 1500 new services a week for local commuters.

“These buses are part of the Central Coast Regional Transport Strategy to improve public transport for the entire region.”

Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for the Central Coast and Member for Wyong David Harris, Member for Gosford Marie Andrews, Member for The Entrance Grant McBride and Member for Swansea Robert Coombs welcomed the release of the draft strategy for community consultation.

“This strategy will see upgrades completed at Tuggerah and Wyong stations and new commuter car parks built to make it easier for people to park and ride,” said Mr Harris.

“This rail investment will be supported with the huge boost to bus services due to start next month.

“This is an exciting time for public transport on the Central Coast and I’d encourage local people to get involved and tell us what they think.”

Member for Gosford Marie Andrews said the southern part of the Central Coast would benefit significantly under the Central Coast Regional Transport Strategy.

“Gosford is one of the big winners under the bus changes announced by the Premier earlier this month,” said Marie Andrews.

“In addition, new commuter car parks will be built at Woy Woy and Gosford and local rail commuters will continue to benefit from the roll out of the new OSCAR trains on the Central Coast Line.”

Member for Swansea Robert Coombs said other changes like the introduction of MyZone earlier this year have already had an impact on residents of the Central Coast.

“Under MyZone, the weekly train ticket from Wyong to the city decreased from \$62 to \$56, a saving of more than \$300 a year,” said Mr Coombs.

“Coupled with new connecting bus services to and from our major train stations, it is getting not just easier, but cheaper for people to use public transport.”

Member for The Entrance Grant McBride said major progress has already been made on the Central Coast to improve access to public transport and boost services for local residents.

“New commuter car parks have already been delivered at Ourimbah, Morisset and Tuggerah, with more to come at Wyong, Woy Woy and Gosford,” said Mr McBride.

“Major upgrades of the Pacific Highway were completed last year and further works are now underway on the Central Coast Highway.”

The Central Coast Regional Transport Strategy includes plans to:

- Implement the *NSW Bus Strategy - Better Bus Connections* including:
 - new Integrated Central Coast Bus Networks, 41 new buses and new Strategic Bus Corridors;
- Deliver Commuter Car Park upgrades at Wyong, Woy Woy and Gosford;
- Deliver a major Tuggerah Railway Station upgrade;
- Deliver further Outer Suburban Rail Carriages for Central Coast rail services;
- Deliver the \$300 million upgrades to Central Coast roads from 2007 to 2011 outlined in *Central Coast Better Roads* including:
 - Avoca Drive, Sun Valley Road to Bayside Drive;
 - Central Coast Highway, Carlton Road to Matcham Road;
 - Central Coast Highway, Woy Woy Road Intersection Upgrade; and,
 - Terrigal Drive Improvements, with further upgrades continuing beyond 2012.

Mr Robertson said that after wide consultation, the draft strategy is now ready to go on public display for further community feedback until November 26, 2010.

“We look forward to working with the local residents and listening to their views on the draft strategy,” he said.

To make comment or provide or feedback on the draft Central Coast Regional Transport Strategy visit www.nsw.gov.au/shapeyourstate or call 1800 467 179.

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