

# Damien Tudehope MP

Member for Epping

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015



*Merry Christmas!*

Christmas is a time for celebration, family, friends and loved ones. As the year winds down I hope you all have a safe and joyful holiday break, catching up with friends and relatives and coming together in the spirit of goodwill. It is also a time of reflection, looking back at the year gone by and thinking of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Although we are lucky in Australia there are still people in need even in such a safe and prosperous country like ours. Christmas shows us what the important things are in life and serves as a reminder not to take them for granted. On behalf of my wife Diane and I, I wish you happiness, peace, and grace this Christmas. May you have a joyous time with family and a safe and happy New Year.

**Damien Tudehope MP**  
**Member for Epping**

*Damien Tudehope*





## Sydney Metro

You may have noticed the new name for this project, formerly the North West Rail Link, Sydney Metro will deliver rapid transit into the city with a train every 4 minutes during peak hour. Tunnelling for the Sydney Metro is nearing completion, we have seen the two tunnel boring machines Isabel and Maria breakthrough at Epping. This marks the end of their journey from Cherrybrook, after digging almost 6km of Australia's longest railway tunnels. The final breakthrough is expected at Cherrybrook train station early in the new year. Earlier this year the Premier announced that the project would continue beyond Chatswood, under the harbour and into the CBD then on to Bankstown, with construction on this phase to begin in 2017. Damien was pleased to join the minister at Showground station to take a first look at the new train that will be used on the Sydney Metro project.



### First look at the new Sydney Metro Train

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance today unveiled the first glimpse of Sydney's new metro train, with a life-size train model delivered for customer testing on Sydney Metro Northwest. The 13-tonne life-size train model has been delivered to the Showground Station site and is a full-scale version of approximately 75 per cent of the front carriage – including the distinctive nose section where customers will be able to travel while looking directly out the front of the fully automated train. A key feature of Sydney's new metro train is the two multi-purpose areas per train for prams, luggage and bicycles as well as wheelchair spaces and separate priority seating for those with reduced mobility.

Inside, customers will be able to see from one end of the train to the other and it will have padded fabric covers on the seating – unlike many metros, which have hard plastic or stainless steel seats.

The trains work hand-in-hand with the Australian-first platform screen door technology being introduced on Sydney Metro, which keeps people and objects away from tracks and allows trains to get in and out of stations much faster. The life-size train model will be tested over coming weeks with a range of people including school groups, parents with prams, the less mobile as well as emergency services and engineers. The community will also be able to give their feedback online on the final colour choice for the train, including its distinctive front nose section. More details at: <http://nwrail.transport.nsw.gov.au>. Following customer testing, the life-size train model will go on public display so the public has the chance to get a closer look at Sydney's new train.



## Tunnel Boring Machine Maria

Maria commenced operations in January and completed her tunnelling task in just over nine months. She was named after 19th century Aboriginal rights advocate Maria Lock. TBM Maria, weighing 900 tonnes, was delivered to the Cherrybrook site in 18 shipping containers and 27 large pieces and was assembled by a crew of more than 70 workers. Following her arrival at Epping, TBM4 has been dismantled and brought to the surface in pieces in a series of precision operations which took four weeks.

### ABOUT MARIA LOCK:

- Maria Lock (c.1805-1878) was an Aboriginal landowner born near Richmond and the daughter of Yarramundi, Chief of the Richmond Tribes.
- The family belonged to the Boorooberongal clan of the Dharug people.
- In late 1814, Yarramundi's clan attended the inaugural annual conference hosted for Aborigines by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. At this time, Maria was admitted to the Native Institution, for tuition by William and Elizabeth Shelley.
- In 1819, Maria is said to have won first prize in the annual school exam ahead of 20 children from the Native Institution and 100 European students.
- In 1824 Maria married Robert Lock (1800-1854), a convict carpenter. The marriage was the first officially sanctioned union between a convict and an Aboriginal woman.
- At a time when women were not a political force and Aboriginal women even less so, Maria petitioned Governor Darling for her brother's land entitlements and was the first female Aboriginal to be given a land grant, at Liverpool. The process took almost 20 years.
- Her grandson Jerome Lock served in World War 1 and is believed to be Australia's first Aboriginal Soldier.



## Epping to Thornleigh Third Track (ETTT)

Damien visited Cheltenham recently to inspect a new concourse and two new lifts designed to improve access for customers at Cheltenham Station which have now been open for several weeks. The upgrade of Cheltenham Station is being delivered as part of Epping to Thornleigh Third Track Project which will separate northbound freight from passenger services between Epping and Thornleigh. The Cheltenham Station concourse also includes new stairs between the concourse and platforms, a modern ticket office, Opal card readers, improved security features including CCTV, new passenger information display boards and a family accessible restroom.

Two disabled car parking spaces on The Crescent have been relocated to the Sutherland Road car park closer to the new lifts, allowing easy access to the station concourse and platforms. The new Cheltenham station is due to be completed before Christmas.

ETTT is one of four projects that form the Northern Sydney Freight Corridor (NSFC) program, a \$1.1 billion project is being jointly funded by the Federal Government, which has contributed \$840 million, and the New South Wales Government contributing \$213.8 million. The project is designed to improve capacity and reliability of freight trains and passenger services and is on track for completion in 2016.



## New NorthConnex Display Centre Open



**Where:** NorthConnex Display Centre  
**Address:** 118 Yarrara Rd, West Pennant Hills  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and the last Saturday of the month 9am to 1pm

The community is invited to visit the new NorthConnex Display Centre which is now located at 118 Yarrara Rd in West Pennant Hills. The increased space and revamped centre design will provide NorthConnex team members with more opportunities to meet the community and showcase the project. The display centre remains easily accessible by public transport, located across the road from Pennant Hills station and also has ample car parking off Hillcrest Road. To maximise opportunities to meet with the community the new display centre has extended its opening hours and will now be open Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm and the last Saturday of the month between 9am and 1pm. The \$3 billion NorthConnex project linking the M1 to the M2 to provide twin nine kilometre tunnels under Pennant Hills Road will save motorists 15 minutes of travel time compared to using Pennant Hills Road when it opens in 2019. When completed, the new twin tunnels will be capable of carrying more than 100,000 vehicles each day – or 50,000 in each direction – including removing 5,000 trucks from Pennant Hills Road.

*For further information visit the NorthConnex website at [www.northconnex.com.au](http://www.northconnex.com.au) or contact the project information line on 1800 997 057.*

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