

The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP Premier of NSW Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 16 May 2011

TRACK LAID FOR THE SOUTH WEST RAIL PROJECT

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian today inspected the first new track laid as part of the \$2.1 billion South West Rail Link project.

Visiting Glenfield Station ahead of a Community Cabinet Meeting in South West Sydney, Mr O'Farrell said the 11-kilometre twin-track line would connect Glenfield to Leppington via Edmondson Park.

"Construction of the South West Rail Link is a priority for the NSW Government," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The NSW Government has established a dedicated project team to be based on site to deliver the South West Rail Link," he said.

"The project team will be headed by Stephen Pascall, Executive Program Director at the Transport Construction Authority, who has extensive private and public sector experience in project delivery.

"It's estimated 110,000 new homes will be built in this area over the next 30 years – and the population will grow by 300,000.

"We are committed to ensuring infrastructure matches population growth.

"We will not repeat Labor's inept planning which saw families virtually stranded in new suburbs.

"The South West Rail Link will mean the people who move into this growth zone will be able to access good public transport."

Ms Berejiklian said the approximately 100 metres of track inspected today would form part of the connection between the existing East Hills rail line and the new South West Line.

"The new track - installed on May 7 and 8, during a weekend rail closure – represents an important milestone in the South West Rail Line project," Ms Berejiklian said.

"This important step demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to getting on with the job of delivering much needed transport infrastructure for the growing population of South West Sydney.

"Unlike Labor, the NSW Liberals & Nationals remained fully committed to the South West Rail Link and we will see it through to its completion.

"This upgrade of the Glenfield rail junction marks a major milestone in the delivery of the South West Rail Link and we're ready for major construction to forge ahead in 2012 between Glenfield South and Leppington," Ms Berejiklian said.

The upgrade of Glenfield Station includes the construction of a rail/bus interchange, a multi-storey commuter car park, and flyovers north and south of the station.

Along the new line, stations with commuter parking will be built at Edmondson Park and Leppington.

Trains are expected to start running on the new South West Rail Link in 2016.

ENDS