



MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast
John Robertson MLC

Wednesday, 10th November 2010

33 NEW BUSES FOR THE LOWER HUNTER AND MORE THAN 1000 EXTRA SERVICES A WEEK

The Lower Hunter will receive 33 new buses and more than a thousand extra services a week following a review of bus networks across the region, announced Minister for Transport John Robertson today.

Mr Robertson said the new buses will commence on November 28 and provide increased services in and around Cessnock, Maitland, Singleton, Raymond Terrace, Nelson Bay, Newcastle, Glendale, Toronto and Morisset to name just a few.

“Under the changes there will be more late night services, more weekend services and more buses running in the AM and PM peaks,” said Mr Robertson.

“The new integrated bus network will provide faster and more efficient bus services for the people of the Lower Hunter.

“33 new buses is equivalent to a ten per cent increase in the size of the total bus fleet and represent a \$13 million investment in public transport for the Hunter region.

“All the new buses will be air-conditioned and low floor wheelchair accessible so that people with mobility constraints, the elderly and mums with prams can get on and off easily.

“Passengers will see huge increases in services across the network.

“For example, we will be introducing a new cross-regional link between Newcastle Airport, Raymond Terrace and Stockland Greenhills via Woodberry running seven days a week.

“There will be extra weekday services between Toronto, Glendale and the University of Newcastle.

“And the Government will double the number of services between Maryland and Wallsend, extending to Stockland, Jesmond and the University of Newcastle.

“The bottom line is there will now be more buses, running more frequently which will make it easier for workers, students and pensioners to use public transport.

“These new services will also support jobs for the Lower Hunter with operators estimating an extra 30 drivers will be needed to run the new network.”

Mr Robertson said the community has been heavily involved in the development of the new services for the Lower Hunter.

“More than 850 submissions were received from local residents and public transport users during the consultation period,” he said.

“We have listened to the community’s feedback and the new bus network has many of these requests incorporated.

“For example, following feedback from the community we will introduce a new evening and weekend service for the Maitland area to replace the current “on-call” bus service.”

Detailed information on the changes, including timetables, will be available soon at 131500.com.au.

Lower Hunter Integrated Network Plan Summary

The new integrated bus network will provide faster and more efficient bus services for the people of the Lower Hunter by:

- Improving bus services for Cessnock, with an expansion of the route 165 “Cessnock Hoppa” to operate five days a week on a revised route;
- Introducing new weekend services between Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Morisset on route 163;
- Improved services to growing residential areas in Aberglasslyn and Rutherford on routes 181 and 182;
- Improving services for East Maitland, with new evening and weekend services on routes 181, 182 and 183;
- Improved services to growing residential areas in Raworth and Tenambit on routes 183 and 184;
- Introducing new evening and weekend services for the Maitland area operating on routes 181, 182 and 183 to replace the current “on-call” bus service;
- Introducing new services and improving service coverage for Bolwarra, Bolwarra Heights and Largs on route 185, with limited services on Saturdays;
- Introducing a new cross-regional link between Newcastle Airport, Raymond Terrace and Stockland Greenhills via Woodberry on route 145 to operate seven days a week;
- Improving services between Raymond Terrace and Newcastle on route 140, with better access to the growing employment area in Tomago;
- Improving local town service for Raymond Terrace on route 141;
- Improving bus services in the Medowie area, with better access to Medowie Shops on routes 136 and 137;
- Modifications to bus services in the Stockton and Fern Bay areas on route 136, including improved access to new residential development in Fern Bay;
- Introducing a new and more direct service between Shoal Bay, Nelson Bay, Salamander Bay and Newcastle during weekday peak periods on route 131;
- Improving local service for the Nelson Bay area on routes 132 and 133, with new access to the Tomaree Community Hospital;
- Improving services for the Maryland and Fletcher areas on routes 260 and 261, with a new direct link to Stockland Jesmond and the University of Newcastle;
- Introducing a new direct link from Maryland to Newcastle by extending Newcastle Buses’ route 235 from Wallsend to Maryland;
- Improving bus services to growing residential areas in Cameron Park and Edgeworth on routes 262, 263 and 268, with improved evening and weekend services and more regular services to Cardiff and Charlestown;
- Introducing new regular services along Myall Road in Garden Suburb on routes 262 and 263 between Charlestown, Cardiff, Glendale and Edgeworth, operating seven days a week (in addition to Newcastle Buses services already operating in Garden Suburb);
- Additional services in the Elmore Vale area on route 267;
- Introducing new route 269 between Toronto, Fennell Bay, Woodrising, Booragul, Boolaroo, Speers Point and Charlestown operating six days a week;
- Improving services on route 270 between Toronto West, Toronto, Fennell Bay, Woodrising, Booragul, Boolaroo and Stockland Glendale, operating seven days a week, with additional services on weekdays and Saturdays, and new evening services operating Monday to Saturday til 9:30pm;
- Providing additional weekday services between Toronto, Glendale and the University of Newcastle on route 270; and
- Improving services between Toronto, Blackalls Park, Fassifern, Bolton Point and Marmong Point on route 271 operating seven days a week.

There will be additional services provided on many routes as part of the new network. As an example, compared to the current network:

- **Nelson Bay to Newcastle (130)**
 - two (2) additional trips in each direction on weekdays
 - one (1) additional trip in each direction on Saturdays and Sundays
- **Lemon Tree Passage to Raymond Terrace (137)**
 - up to four (4) additional services in each direction on weekdays and Saturdays
 - new Sunday services introduced
- **Raymond Terrace to Newcastle (140)**
 - nine (9) additional trips in each direction on weekdays, with late night services on Fridays
 - seven (7) additional trips in each direction on Saturdays
- **Thornton to Stockland Greenhills and East Maitland (182)**
 - six (6) additional trips in each direction on weekdays
 - new Saturday and Sunday services introduced
- **Fletcher and Maryland to Stockland Jesmond (260, 261)**
 - an approximate doubling in the number of trips between Maryland and Wallsend, extending to Stockland Jesmond (seven days) and the University of Newcastle (weekdays)
- **Cameron Park and Edgeworth to Charlestown (262, 263)**
 - up to 18 additional trips in each direction on weekdays
 - up to 19 additional trips in each direction on Saturdays
- **Toronto District to Charlestown (269)**
 - eight (8) additional trips per weekday in each direction (currently three trips)
 - seven (7) additional trips in each direction on Saturdays (currently two trips)
- **Toronto District to University of Newcastle (270)**
 - up to 12 additional trips in each direction on weekdays

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