



# **The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **Premier of NSW**

### **Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday 4 June 2012

### **DAILY RAIL SERVICES FOR BATHURST**

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell, Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner, Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian and Local Member Paul Toole today announced daily rail services will run seven days a week between Bathurst and Sydney within months.

The NSW Government is delivering on a commitment to the Bathurst community.

Mr O'Farrell said a diesel Endeavour train will run an express return service between Bathurst and Sydney, Monday to Friday and on weekends, starting in October.

Blue Mountains customers stand to benefit as well, with stops planned for Lithgow, Mt Victoria and Katoomba.

"The people of Bathurst and surrounding areas have been very clear about how important this service is to them and the Government is today delivering on our commitment," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Providing effective public transport is so crucial and I am very pleased to be able to announce this new service while visiting Bathurst today."

Mr Stoner said the new daily rail service satisfied a major pre-election commitment made to the Bathurst community.

"Today's announcement shows that the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is getting on with the job of delivering quality services for regional areas such as Bathurst," Mr Stoner said.

"The introduction of a daily rail service will not only help connect the Central West to Sydney, it will make daily travel much easier for thousands of local residents."

Ms Berejiklian said the introduction of the service is part of the NSW Government's Fixing the Trains program, which aims to provide better rail services and deliver improvements for customers.

"One important aspect of Fixing the Trains involves the creation of a new organisation, NSW Trains, to deliver better services for longer distance travellers – people who for too long have been ignored," Ms Berejiklian said.

"The Labor Party reacted to the announcement by spreading vicious lies about this Government's plans for regional areas and so I'm delighted to be here today to prove to people who live outside Sydney that this Government is about increasing services."

Paul Toole, Member for Bathurst, welcomed the announcement.

“The community, and especially Rail Action Bathurst, have been calling on successive Governments to do this for over ten years and I’m thrilled the Liberals and Nationals Government has delivered for them,” he said.

“I look forward to the community embracing the service, whether for business trips to Sydney or for leisure activities.

“I was able to work with the Minister for Transport to deliver this key election commitment for the Bathurst community and I am very pleased the NSW Government has been able to deliver what we said we would.”

The Endeavour train will have almost 200 seats, toilet facilities and a dedicated space for luggage. Current CityRail ticket prices and concessions will apply to the service, including Pensioner Excursion Tickets.