



2017 Construction overview

Newcastle Light Rail

The NSW Government is investing over \$500 million through the Revitalising Newcastle program to transform Newcastle – bringing people back to the city centre, creating job opportunities, new public spaces, and improved transport.

Light rail is an important part of the Revitalising Newcastle program and will deliver frequent and reliable connections to key activity precincts to reinvigorate Newcastle's once thriving main streets.

Downer EDI has been engaged as the managing contractor to design and build light rail in Newcastle.

Construction on Hunter Street is due to start in September and light rail services are set to be running in early 2019.

Key features of light rail

- › 2.7 kilometres of light rail track running from Newcastle Interchange at Wickham to Pacific Park, just 200 metres from Newcastle Beach
- › The route will use the old rail corridor for about one kilometre before moving onto Hunter and Scott streets
- › Light rail will run in a dedicated lane on Hunter and Scott streets, and will share a lane with road users from around Newcomen Street through to Pacific Park
- › There will be light rail stops at Newcastle Interchange, Honeysuckle (near Hunter Street TAFE), Civic, Crown Street, Market Street and Pacific Park.

Light rail will:



Provide a frequent, comfortable and reliable transport option for people who live, work and play in the city centre



Help people get to key locations across the city centre quickly and easily, with services running every 7.5 minutes during peak times



Help reinvigorate Hunter Street by bringing people back to the city centre and delivering customers right to the front door of local businesses



Cater for the transport demand of years to come

Work completed

In the past 18 months we have:

- › Cleared the old heavy rail corridor of redundant rail infrastructure including ballast, signalling equipment and pedestrian footbridges at Argyle Street, Perkins Street and Wolfe Street
- › Created an exciting new public space in the old heavy rail corridor, known as Market Street Lawn
- › Opened seven crossings to allow easy access across the former rail corridor to better connect the city centre to the harbour and improve the experience of moving around the city
- › Established the Newcastle Light Rail site office between Merewether and Argyle streets in the former heavy rail corridor – right in the centre of the city.

Work underway

Downer EDI has been engaged as the managing contractor. Downer are continuing site and service investigations throughout the city centre to help finalise detailed design.

Work started in May to prepare for the new light rail stabling facility in Newcastle West. Work includes:

- › Installation of fencing around the former Wickham Station
- › Salvage and storage of heritage items
- › Demolition of the former Station including the removal of all buildings, station platforms, street furniture and the pedestrian footbridge.

Upcoming work for 2017

Over the next few months, you will start to see a lot of activity on Newcastle Light Rail as major construction gets underway:

- › Work will take place from June in the former rail corridor between Crown and Perkins streets, and between Steel Street and Hunter TAFE
- › Work will start from July on a temporary road connection linking Honeysuckle Drive to Hunter Street at Worth Place. This connection will help traffic move between Honeysuckle and the city centre once light rail construction starts on Hunter and Scott streets
- › Stewart Avenue will be temporarily closed to traffic between Hunter Street and Honeysuckle Drive for up to five weekends during August and September as we prepare for new track to be laid across the road
- › Work will start on Hunter Street between Auckland and Darby streets in September. Hunter Street will be closed to traffic in this area while the following work is carried out:

- › Relocating essential services such as water, gas, electricity and telecommunications
- › Civil construction work, including road reconfiguration, rebuilding the road base, installing kerbs, and installing power signalling and communication cables
- › Laying track on the road, which involves using a crane to lift 18 metre sections of rail into place.
- › **Pedestrian access will be maintained while work is carried out and local business will continue to trade.**

What to expect during construction

Information about construction

We will use a variety of communication channels to ensure residents, businesses and visitors are aware of changes to traffic and parking in the city centre as construction progresses. Information will also be available at revitalisingnewcastle.nsw.gov.au

We will provide detail on work starting in 2018 later this year.

Work hours

Most work will be carried out during standard construction hours from 7am to 6pm Mondays to Fridays and Saturdays from 8am to 1pm, weather permitting. We will notify nearby residents and businesses if we need to work outside these times.

Vibration

Construction activities may generate vibration, including:

- › General earthworks
- › Site clearing and demolition
- › Bulldozers and excavators
- › Concrete breaking and removal
- › Ground compaction.

Vibration monitoring will be carried out during construction and at the start of vibration intensive activities.

Dust

We will aim to minimise airborne dust particles by:

- › Using water carts
- › Installing hoarding mesh
- › Avoiding dust generating work on windy days.

Noise

Work may be noisy at times. We will aim to minimise noise by:

- › Turning off machinery when not in use
- › Scheduling the noisiest activities during the day, where possible
- › Positioning noisy equipment as far away as possible from residents and businesses
- › Using non-tonal reversing beepers on all machinery.

Temporary traffic changes

Changed traffic conditions may cause some delays and we encourage people to take this into account when planning their trip.

Traffic control and pedestrian diversions will be in place during the road closures.

We will display up-to-date information on road closures and detours on electronic signs along the road and at revitalisingnewcastle.nsw.gov.au. For the latest traffic information, visit livetraffic.com or download the **Live Traffic NSW** app.

Changes to bus routes

Bus services travelling in and out of Newcastle will be diverted onto King Street (from Union Street), and Honeysuckle Drive and Wharf Road.

We will provide detailed information on the new bus arrangements before this change occurs.

Information about services will also be available at revitalisingnewcastle.nsw.gov.au and customers will be able to plan their trip at transportnsw.info.



Frequently asked questions

When is light rail being built? When will it be running?

Light rail construction will start from September and is expected to be completed in late 2018. During this time parts of Hunter and Scott streets will be temporarily closed to traffic.

Up-to-date information on road closures will be available at revitalisingnewcastle.nsw.gov.au. After track work is complete, the light rail system and vehicles will be tested for several months. Light rail services are expected to be running from early 2019.

Will businesses in the city centre still be open during construction?

Absolutely! While parts of Hunter and Scott streets will be temporarily closed to traffic during construction, pedestrian access will be maintained so you can still get to your favourite local businesses.

I usually drive into the city centre. Can I still do this when light rail is being built?

Yes, but changed traffic conditions may cause some delays and we encourage people to take this into account when planning their trip. Parts of Hunter and Scott streets will be temporarily closed to traffic and detours will be in place.

We will use a variety of communication channels to ensure people can easily access information about changes as construction progresses.

You can check for latest updates and traffic information at livetraffic.com or download the **Live Traffic NSW** app. Alternatively, leave your car at home and use public transport. Plan your trip at transportnsw.info.

Stay informed

For regular updates, follow [@revitalisingnewcastle](https://www.facebook.com/revitalisingnewcastle) on Facebook, and subscribe to our newsletter at revitalisingnewcastle.nsw.gov.au/stay-informed

Will light rail be extended to other areas in future?

Extensions are being considered as part of long-term planning for the broader transport system in Newcastle. There are many ideas for potential extensions of the light rail. It is important that these options are grounded in evidence-based planning that considers customer needs and demand, engineering feasibility and the integration of transport and land use.

We look forward to working with the new integrated service provider, Newcastle Transport, to identify what opportunities exist for possible light rail extensions in the future.

Why isn't the light rail going down the former rail corridor?

Newcastle Light Rail will travel between the new Newcastle Interchange at Wickham in the west and Pacific Park in the east, delivering customers just 200 metres from Newcastle Beach. Light rail will be on the old rail corridor for about one-third of the route, before diverting onto Hunter Street at Worth Place.

Six light rail stops will provide easy access to key destinations such as the University of Newcastle's NeW Space campus, law courts and Civic Theatre, as well as delivering customers to the doorstep of businesses, which will help drive the local economy.

Internationally, and around Australia, light rail is considered a key driver in urban renewal. Running light rail along Hunter and Scott streets will help reinvigorate Newcastle's once thriving main streets. It also allows the former corridor to be opened up and transformed into exciting open public spaces including parks and entertainment precincts, as well as housing, retail, and commercial uses.

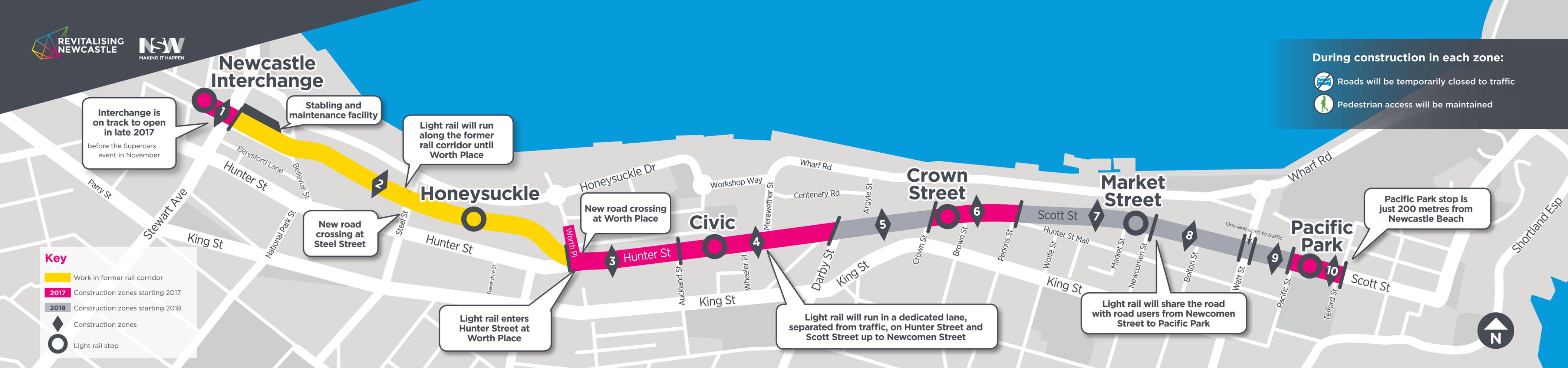
How can I find out more?

For more information call **1800 684 490**, email projects@transport.nsw.gov.au or visit revitalisingnewcastle.nsw.gov.au

Urgent enquiries or complaints

For urgent enquiries or complaints about construction activities, call our **24-hour construction response line** on **1800 775 465**





During construction in each zone:

- Roads will be temporarily closed to traffic
- Pedestrian access will be maintained

Building light rail on Hunter and Scott streets

Construction of Newcastle Light Rail will be carried out in zones on Hunter and Scott streets. Each zone will be temporarily closed to traffic during major construction, and multiple zones may be closed at any one time.

Pedestrian access to businesses and residences will be maintained at all times and promoted during road closures.

Detours will be in place directing road users along King Street and Honeysuckle Drive/Wharf Road during the closures.

After major work is finished, the road will be reopened to traffic.

Safety barriers will remain in place around the newly installed track to allow construction of light rail stops and testing of the signalling system and vehicles.

Other construction activities will take place outside the road closure period. We will notify businesses and residents before work takes place.

Why was this construction approach selected?

Building light rail in zones allows various construction activities to take place in the same area at the same time. It allows us to get in, get a majority of the work done quickly, and get out of the area.

This minimises the amount of time we will be working in each area and reduces the impact on residents, businesses and traffic.

We've learned from other light rail projects that

We will contact businesses and residents in affected construction zones before work starts to provide more information. **Details on work happening in 2018 will be provided later in the year.**

the construction zone approach offers significant benefits over leaving the road partially open to traffic, including a significantly reduced construction timeframe, greater certainty about timeframes in each zone and a reduced need for night work.

As with all major construction projects, it's impossible to plan for every outcome ahead of time. However, should things change, we will inform those affected as soon as we can.

What is happening in 2017?

Work in 2017 will take place at these locations:

	Start	End
Former rail corridor between former Wickham Station and Worth Place (zone 2)	May-17	Early 2018
Stewart Avenue between Hunter Street and Honeysuckle Drive - weekend work only (zone 1)	Aug-17	End 2017
Hunter Street between Auckland Street and Darby Street (zone 4)	Sep-17	End 2017
Hunter Street between Crown Street and Perkins Street (zone 6)	Nov-17	Early 2018
Hunter Street between Worth Place and Auckland Street (zone 3)	Dec-17	Early 2018
Scott Street between Pacific Street and Telford Street (zone 10)	Dec-17	Early 2018

We understand building light rail will cause disruption in the city centre. We are committed to providing businesses, residents and visitors with timely and accurate information as construction progresses.

We thank you in advance for your patience during this important work.