



**BOB DEBUS MP**  
MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS

14 August 2006

**BLUE MOUNTAINS TRAIN CAPACITY SET TO EXPAND**

Member for Blue Mountains, Bob Debus, said today that people in the Blue Mountains will benefit from the Government's purchase of new trains in more ways than one.

The new Outer Suburban Carriages (OSCARs), currently being track tested, are a part of the Government's unprecedented \$2.5 billion investment in new rolling stock.

"The 122 new OSCARs, to run to Springwood and also on the South Coast and Central Coast lines, will cost \$439 million and the first of them will be on the network later this year," Mr Debus said.

"They will boost CityRail's overall fleet numbers and therefore provide more flexibility in easing heavy passenger loading on some suburban and intercity services.

For example, it is no secret that people often have to stand on the 4.23 pm service from Central, especially between Parramatta and the Lower Mountains. RailCorp is looking into whether it would be possible to add two more carriages to the service when the new trains are operating.

"The \$2.5 billion in new rolling stock, new CityRail timetables, record numbers of train drivers and \$1.5 billion Rail Clearways Plan will all help improve reliability.

Mr Debus said the new OSCARs will operate as four- or eight-car sets and will feature:

- \* 432 passenger seats every four cars;
- \* Wide high backed seats for greater comfort on longer journeys;
- \* Air conditioning;
- \* On board CCTV;
- \* On board passenger information displays;
- \* More comfortable seating with graffiti and fire retardant covering;
- \* Easy access for people with disabilities, the elderly or persons with strollers; and
- \* Easy access toilet for people with disabilities (one toilet on every four-car set).

"The new OSCARs are being thoroughly tested before they are introduced to service later this year," Mr Debus.