

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



Thursday 6 August, 2009

OSCAR contract creates more jobs for apprentices

The NSW Government has invested \$320 million in 72 new OSCAR carriages which will roll out from 2010.

Minister for the Hunter Jodi McKay said today the NSW Government's purchase of a third batch of Outer Suburban carriages, or OSCARs, had resulted in 14 new apprenticeships in Newcastle.

Ms McKay met with the HunterNet apprentices who have started work at the Broadmeadow plant of UGL Rail, a division of United Group Limited, which has the contract to deliver the OSCAR carriages.

"The NSW Government is investing \$320 million to deliver 72 additional OSCAR carriages," Ms McKay said.

"It is fantastic that this investment is supporting the Hunter economy and is providing an opportunity for young people to learn a trade.

"HunterNet is employing the apprentices and coordinating the training and administration necessary for them to work on this project.

"Along with the 14 new apprentice positions, the delivery of the OSCARs will support around 200 jobs at Broadmeadow and around 40 jobs at Taree."

Minister for Transport David Campbell said the latest contract builds on the 122 OSCAR carriages already being delivered onto the CityRail network for commuters.

"The NSW Government has previously invested \$439 million for 122 OSCARs and almost all of these carriages have been delivered, with the remaining two to be on the network by the end of the year," Mr Campbell said.

"These state-of-the-art trains are an important part of the Government's work to upgrade the CityRail fleet to further improve safety, capacity, reliability and comfort of passengers across the network.

"The OSCAR trains are equipped with the latest features such as CCTV, air-conditioning, toilet access for disabled passengers, on-board passenger information screens and reversible seats with graffiti and fire-resistant coverings.

"In addition to the OSCARs, the Government also has on order 626 new air-conditioned carriages under Australia's largest ever rollingstock contract, with the first of these new PPP trains scheduled for delivery from late 2010.

"The PPP trains are also being assembled in the Hunter, with the project injecting around \$200 million into the local economy."

Media contact: Lee Davelaar 0418 269 508