



Media Release

David Campbell MP

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Illawarra

WORK BEGINS ON PRESERVING BROADMEADOW ROUNDHOUSE

The NSW Government is investing \$3.6 billion in new train carriages for commuters.

Wednesday 27 May 2009

Minister for Transport David Campbell said Broadmeadow's historic rail roundhouse would undergo a major refurbishment to preserve its heritage value and create jobs for local apprentices.

Mr Campbell said the 60-year-old building and main turntable would receive a \$2 million makeover under tenders awarded to NSW firms Degnan Constructions and Forgacs Engineering.

"I'm pleased to hear that 11 apprentices will be put on for parts of this work, it will allow them to gain unique experience," Mr Campbell said.

"The Broadmeadow roundhouse building is on RailCorp's heritage register and is to be preserved to protect an important part of our state's history," Mr Campbell said.

"The site is to be used to house a significant proportion of RailCorp's non-electric heritage fleet."

Mr Campbell said the depot at Broadmeadow was first established in the 1920s and grew during the steam era to be a large-scale locomotive servicing centre. By the 1950s there were two roundhouses and associated turntables on the site.

"While locomotive depots such as Broadmeadow were common during the 1940s and 1950s, only a few survived," Mr Campbell said.

"Roundhouse No.1 was demolished in 1990 and the remaining roundhouse and turntables represent the past importance of Broadmeadow as the main servicing depot for locomotives in the northern part of the state's railway system."

The refurbishment of the roundhouse and its turntable will assist in ensuring the long-term conservation of these structures.

Mr Campbell said the roundhouse would undergo external and internal refurbishment, including repairs to the roof, doors, windows, eaves and fascias as well as a complete electrical upgrade.

"The site's historic turntable, which is one of the largest in NSW, will also be restored," Mr Campbell said.

"Intricate work will be carried out on the turntable's structure as well as the electrical, mechanical and hydraulic systems to enable return to full operation."

Work is just getting underway and the upgrade is expected to be completed by September 2009.

For further information: **Suzie Brady – 0411 104 339**