A $9.3 million teaching and learning centre officially opened at Westmead Hospital today is the first major infrastructure collaboration between the University of Sydney, Western Sydney Local Health District, Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network and the $1 billion Westmead Redevelopment project.

NSW Education Minister Rob Stokes was on-hand to launch the Westmead Education and Conference Centre (WECC), a new creative space to inspire flexible learning and teaching activities.

The WECC level one, located in the heart of the hospital, has four new teaching areas, including case study and cabaret rooms, specifically designed to encourage an inclusive teaching style, along with the huddle, a small informal amphitheatre for collaboration.

Mr Stokes said the new areas were created in consultation with the university and leading educational institutions around the world to support Westmead’s diverse students, educators, researchers and clinicians.

“This will open up great opportunities for students and researchers at Westmead to have the opportunity to engage with leading experts, with strong records of applying their research for better community health outcomes in areas ranging from bioinformatics to infectious diseases, cancer genomics to children’s health,” Mr Stokes said.

“The centre supports their discoveries and expertise being shared firsthand with students and colleagues.”

University of Sydney vice-chancellor Dr Michael Spence said: “the renovation of the WECC is the most recent stage of our ongoing commitment to western Sydney and to supporting the highest quality teaching and research at Westmead.

“Our presence in western Sydney will unfold over the next 15 years and our second campus will be the University of Sydney’s second home.”

The Westmead health, education and research precinct currently supports around 2000 students and 13,000 scientists, clinicians, educators and other professionals and the figures are expected to grow to more than 6000 students and 30,000 staff by 2036.

Western Sydney Local Health District chief executive Danny O’Connor said the transformation was in response to Westmead’s growing multidisciplinary environment.

“The entire Westmead community including researchers, practitioners, students, patients and the broader community will benefit from this facility,” he said.

“We really want to see students, clinicians and researchers continue to build on the culture of innovation and knowledge sharing at Westmead in the space.”
Last week, representatives from the Westmead Redevelopment team visited the 2017 Boomtown infrastructure summit to engage with attendees about our plans at Westmead.

The summit provided a platform for local government and connected agencies to outline their plans and helped to facilitate a dialogue between public and private sectors on how to deliver the best possible outcomes for western Sydney. It also focused on:

- Metro Rail delivery options
- The Greater Sydney Commission’s Sydney Region Plan
- Future transport strategies
- Western Sydney airport plans

“Being a part of today’s conversation is critical for the development and continued planning for Westmead into the future,” director strategy and development Stefan Perkovic said.

“It’s not only important for us to understand what’s happening in western Sydney beyond our own boundaries, but to reach out and create meaningful connections with other organisations.”

“We’re fortunate to be seeing the benefit growth of infrastructure here at Westmead—we’re just about to open our new multi-storey car park which represents a major milestone in the investment of $72 in car parking upgrades across the precinct.”

“Today we’re engaging with representatives from Metro West and Transport for NSW about future opportunities to strengthen transportation links to and from Westmead, so it’s an exciting time to be a significant part of the transformation that’s underway in western Sydney.”
Staff will have even more ways to get to and from Westmead Hospital, with the introduction of new train, ferry and bus timetables by Transport for NSW.

The new timetables officially came into effect on Sunday, November 26, 2017 and will include more than 1500 new train services, close to 7000 new bus services and more than 140 ferry services across NSW.

What does this mean for Westmead?

For the Westmead precinct, the changes mean 300 extra weekly bus services on Route 711, trains every three minutes to run between Parramatta and the CBD in peak periods and an 18 per cent increase in train services stopping at Westmead Station.

Services stopping at Westmead Station will be pretty similar in peak periods, but there will be more late-night services and weekend trains. There will be more trains going to and from Parramatta and more express services running between Parramatta and the CBD.

There will be some changes to train lines, platforms and bus and train times – make sure you check the trip planner before you travel!

Your current service may have changed or there may be a new option available for a quicker and easier way to commute.

The new timetables are now available to view on the trip planner.

What are the benefits?

The new timetables provide more options for staff across the precinct to travel to work without needing to drive, supporting both sustainability and health goals for the future.

The changes are hoped to encourage more people to not only use public transport around the Westmead precinct but also encourage more people, particularly staff, to be physically active by walking or cycling to and from these destinations instead of using their cars.

Need more information?

Visit transportnsw.info or call 131 500.

Transport for NSW want to hear from you about the new timetable. Visit https://transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback to give your feedback.
Precinct Works

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Precinct Works

Areas under construction

Car parks currently available* for Westmead Hospital staff

Emergency Department

Westmead Hospital
Main Entry

The Mons Road car park will close on Friday, 8 December 2017.

Pedestrian path has been adjusted (see yellow arrow) due to works occurring in this location.

Traffic conditions have changed in this location. Periodic truck movements will take place until 2019.

Stormwater boring works ongoing in this location.

Traffic condition changes continuing in this location. Please allow extra time coming to and from the precinct.

Mobile crane erection occurring in this location end- November 2017. Disruptions to this location.

*Major changes to parking will continue throughout 2017. We will provide information about future changes in the weekly Westmead Redevelopment project update.

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