



Private Members Statement

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

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EDGECLIFF STATION UPGRADE

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (18:12): Almost four years ago, in September 2015, I made the announcement, with Transport Minister Andrew Constance, that planning and design work would finally begin for an upgrade of my local Edgecliff Station. It is a major transport hub serving my electorate and was built in 1979. It celebrated its fortieth birthday just this year. It is a very busy transport hub for buses, trains, taxis and bikes, and is used by residents all over the eastern suburbs peninsula from as far away as Bondi, Watsons Bay and Vaucluse. It is a major gateway for my electorate into the CBD because it also has a shopping centre. Every day tens of thousands of people who need to be able to use the space easily visit it. Edgecliff Station has been crying out for an upgrade for decades, with the first calls being made many years before I became the member. It was inaccessible for less mobile people in my community, whether mums or dads, carers with baby strollers, the elderly or those with a disability. There were no compliant safety ramps, only flights of stairs connecting the bus interchange on the upper level to the shopping centre and the train station, and escalators connecting the train station entrance to the train platform.

The announcement of the upgrade was a major milestone in my electorate and I was so proud to secure \$26 million of funding after fighting hard with the help of my local community members. In May 2017 the public consultation on the upgrade design began. In February 2018 planning approval was granted and in May 2018 the construction contract was awarded. The works took a long time because it was a complicated project. Access to private property had to be secured to install the lifts and because of the outdated station construction the escalators had to be taken apart to remove them and the new ones were installed in sections. Finally, on Tuesday 16 July 2019, I joined busy commuters, local residents, the Minister for Transport and Roads and his staff and Transport for NSW staff to open the upgrade. The Station is now accessible for everyone in my community.

There are new and relocated ticket gates to improve customer flow and new electronic train noticeboards to match. The Station now has two new lifts, which means travelling around the Centre will be much easier. The first lift connects people from the New South Head Road train station entry level to the station platforms. The second lift connects the bus interchange, Edgecliff Centre shops and New South Head Road to access the train station. There are also four new escalators to and from the station platforms as well as new fire evacuation stairs inside the station. The rear entrance to the station from New McLean Street is much better. There is a new access ramp, better lighting, CCTV cameras, sheltered seating, landscaping, a kiss-and-ride zone and new bicycle racks for the keen cyclists in our local area. The bus interchange on the roof of Edgecliff Station now has an extended bus canopy, additional windbreaks and a new pedestrian crossing, which makes catching the bus safer and drier during wet and cold weather.

There is so much to be proud of but it would not have been possible without the hard work of those who made the project a reality. I thank Minister Constance and his Ministerial Office, especially Angus McKenzie-Wills—otherwise known as Gus—and Andrew Dixon, who have been helpful from day one and together with me made sure the project kept moving. From Transport for NSW I thank Chris Daffin, Michael Childs and Zoe Rourke. On the construction side we were lucky to have Degnan Constructions led by Chris Degnan. I also had the opportunity to tour the worksite along the way with Milan Debelak, a local resident and managing director of Liftronic, which provided the two new lifts and four new escalators.

The driving force behind this project, like any such project, is the local community. They have fought hard alongside me over many years for this outcome. Special thanks to Darling Point Society President Charlotte Feldman and local resident Rowena Hamilton. We were also joined at the opening by Rose Bay Residents' Association Vice President Bruce Bland, Holdsworth Community CEO Ruth Kestermann, Sabina Kovadlo and Sandy Matrai from Centre on Ageing in Woollahra and Rose Bay resident Doune Macnaught-Thrush. I thank the local community for their patience along the way. There was a long lead time for this work and it took some time to complete. It is a great outcome and we are all proud of this project, which makes such a difference on a day-to-day level in my local community. I commend my private members' statement to the House.



Gabrielle Upton MP
Member for Vacluse
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