

TRAINS

Northern line the most overcrowded

NO MORE SPACE IN CARRIAGES

Tryon Butson
STATE PARLIAMENT

NORTHERN Line trains are the most overcrowded in the state, according to new CityRail figures, with some morning services running at more than 160 per cent capacity.

CityRail's latest peak-hour crowding figures show train crowding is getting worse with thousands of passengers packed into carriages and in some cases, hundreds left standing.

It also identified northern and Bankstown lines morning services as the most over crowded, with the average Hornsby to the city, via Epping train running at 150 per cent capacity - 5-6 people standing on each level and 15-16 packed into each vestibule.

In one case crowding on the northern line reached up to 160 per cent in March with a CityRail fact sheet showing that meant more than 70 people were standing throughout the carriages.

CityRail classes "100 per cent" as all seats taken.

Evening services were not much better with the average City yo Hornsby train running at 110 per cent but sometimes 120 per cent.

In the past year, crowding levels on morning peak services rose from an average of 119 per cent to 123 per cent.

The state government has ordered a full re-write of CityRail timetables which is expected to be in place by the end of next year.

Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian's office said the new timetable would deliver an extra 135 express or semi-express services per week.

CITYFAIL

■ **100 per cent** - every seat taken;

■ **110 per cent** capacity - 6-7 people standing in each vestibule;

■ **120 per cent** capacity - 11-12 people standing in each vestibule;

■ **135 per cent** capacity - 5-6 people standing on each level. 15-16 people in each vestibule;

■ **160 per cent** capacity - 74 people standing throughout all levels and vestibules.

NORTHERN LINE

Morning service:
5365 passengers,
150 per cent capacity.
Maximum of 160 per cent.

Evening service:
3970 passengers, 110 per cent capacity.
Maximum of 120 per cent.

“A new timetable in 18 months will not do the job - this is a head in the sand approach”
Cate Faehrmann

The Greens have slammed Ms Berejiklian's inaction.

“(It's) actually just fiddling with the edges of a system that requires major capital investment,” Greens MLC Cate Faehrmann said.

“A new timetable in 18 months will not do the job - this is a head-in-the-sand approach and will mean worsening congestion and chaos.”



Passengers stand for the journey between Epping and the City in morning peak hour. Picture: PHIL ROGERS

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR TRAIN SERVICE?
Add your comment to this article at northerndistricttimes.com.au

VOX pop

ARE THE TRAINS AT EPPING OVERCROWDED AND WITHOUT SEATS?

ERIN MORRIS, Normanhurst

It doesn't surprise me that they're the busiest in the state given there are three separate railway lines coming through. The trains for me are OK because I only use them in off-peak periods.



MICHAEL TODD, Epping:

Trains during peak periods are very crowded. I never get a seat in peak hours and I use the train almost every day.



INGE MOORE, Epping

I catch a train to an from Epping about twice a week and in the morning peak I find it hard to get a seat, but in the school holidays it is much easier.



ERLAND OLOFFSON, North Rocks

I wouldn't even consider catching a train, but I would if they improved services and, in particular, security. In Sweden the trains are terrific, but in Sydney they're up the creek.



JOHN GARAS, Epping

Early in the morning, between 6am and 8am, and in the afternoon, I find it very hard to find a seat. I travel to and from the city five days a week and would have a seat on two of those trips.



ESTHER LEE, Epping

It's not so crowded in the morning, but in the evening, between about 6pm to 7pm, it's hard to find a seat. People are generally polite, however, and usually give up their seat for an elderly person.



take a number

9.3C

was the lowest temperature of the year at Sydney Olympic Park, recorded at 5.40am on Friday. At Parramatta, it was 8C, Campbelltown 6C and Camden 5.9C. The forecast for Epping next week indicated that the nights will be even colder. By Monday, the temperature will dip to 6C.

MB

OBITUARY: Rebecca Brewer, 24

'Cottonwool' woman's brave fight over



Colin Kerr

REBECCA Brewer, the brave "cottonwool kid" who fought a daily battle with an incurable and excruciating skin disease, has died.

At 24, Rebecca (pictured) had lived longer than most people with epidermolysis bullosa, known simply as EB.

She had endured a routine of changing bandages

“It was good to know I helped out”

REBECCA BREWER told the Times in May, 2009

that stuck painfully to blisters and open wounds. With her throughout this ordeal was her mother Theresa.

And while Rebecca finally

lost her battle with EB at her new home in Port Macquarie on Saturday, there was a victory that becomes her legacy.

In 2009, the Brewers launched a national campaign to help EB sufferers receive financial help to buy non-stick bandages and other materials to ease the suffering.

The federal government acknowledged her plight

and allocated \$16 million to provide that relief over four years through the advocacy group DebRA from January, 2010.

Only 13 people in NSW were living with as severe a form of the condition as Rebecca had.

“It was good to know I helped out,” Rebecca told the Northern District Times after the government's announcement in May 2009.