

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## BRAND NEW DOUBLE DECK B-LINE BUSES ON THE WAY

The NSW Government has today announced a \$24 million contract for a fleet of 38 double deck buses for the new Northern Beaches B-Line.

NSW Premier and Member for Manly Mike Baird said the new state-of-the-art double deck buses will start running between the Northern Beaches and Sydney CBD in late 2017.

"The B-Line will be the most convenient and reliable public transport option the Northern Beaches has ever had," Mr Baird said.

"There are 38 brand new, state-of-the-art double deck buses on the way, which will ensure passengers are comfortable and have more room during their daily commute."

Each double deck bus will have 86 seats with standing room for 15 people – more than the standard two-door buses that have a capacity for 43 people, and 'bendy' buses that are able to carry 64 people.

New features for the B-Line double deck bus fleet include:

- Individual seating (rather than bench seating) with more leg room
- Charging stations for mobile devices at most seats
- Display screens so customers know if seats are available on the upper deck
- LED destination screens
- Next stop announcements (both audio and visual)
- Unique Northern Beaches B-Line branding for easy identification

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance said the first of the buses are expected to be delivered in mid 2017, with the entire fleet carrying customers by late 2017.

"Raising the standard of bus travel by improving amenities and making it easier to interchange will encourage a shift from cars to public transport," Mr Constance said.

The new turn-up-and-go B-Line services will run at least every 10 minutes across the week, with services arriving every five minutes in peak times in the peak direction.

The body of the MAN double deck buses was designed by Gemilang Australia for the Australian market.

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