



Matt Kean MP

Member for Hornsby



PETRA JOINS FLEET OF NORTHCONNEX ROADHEADERS

Thornleigh West Public School students have named the latest addition to the NorthConnex fleet of roadheaders in an official naming ceremony at the Northern Interchange Compound in Wahroonga.

Member for Hornsby Matt Kean said students dubbed the newest roadheader 'Petra', choosing the name because it comes from the Greek word for rock or stone.

"Across the NorthConnex alignment there will be 19 roadheaders excavating about 2,250,000 cubic metres of sandstone and shale to form the future motorway tunnels," Mr Kean said.

"Almost four of 21 kilometres of tunnelling has been completed and the last roadheaders are being commissioned for what will be a very busy year for the project.

"Petra is the 18th roadheader to join the fleet and, after her naming, was lowered down the 44 metre deep shaft at the Northern Interchange Compound to start excavation.

"At 49 tonnes and about 11 metres long, Petra is actually one of the smaller machines on site but will still be able to 'chew' through about five metres of rock per day.

"There are four roadheaders excavating at the site already and about 900 metres has been excavated."

Mr Kean said the students were invited to place stickers on the machine before it was lifted down the shaft by a large crane.

"NorthConnex is committed to educating the community about the project including construction methods, environment and sustainability, and safety to encourage the next generation of engineers, project managers and tunnellers," he said.

"The schools program is a great way for students to learn more about this \$3 billion project, which will deliver significant benefits to motorists and the local community."

For more information about the NorthConnex project, visit <http://northconnex.com.au/>

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