

Sydney City Railway

location Underground within the Sydney City area between Central Railway Station and Circular Quay, New South Wales.

owner State Rail Authority of NSW

the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**

location St James railway station in a glass case on the concourse at platform level.

The NSW Parliament authorised building the City Railway on 13 October 1915 but the principal construction phase was 1922–32, which saw all but the Circular Quay link completed. Its main purpose was to relieve the congestion of people on the streets between Central and Circular Quay by an independent transport system, underground.

plaque text

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This is Australia's first underground city railway, comprising a city circle completed in sections—Central to St James (1926), Circular Quay (1956), Wynyard to Central (1932) and the North Shore line through Wynyard (1932), which brought the suburban population to the city centre. It was built by the Metropolitan Railway Construction Branch under the direction of Dr J J C Bradfield. The work includes bridges, tunnels, stations and the Circular Quay viaduct. This project has contributed significantly to Sydney's growth as an international city.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the State Rail Authority NSW, 1997.



Dr J J C Bradfield (1867–1943)

Bradfield graduated from Sydney University in 1889. In 1891 he joined the Department of Public Works NSW and over the next 20 years gained extensive experience in design: bridges, dams, water supply, railways, tramways, sewerage, storm water systems, locks, weirs and the evaluation of designs for harbour crossing.

In 1910 he became Principal Designing Engineer and in 1912, Chief Engineer, Sydney Harbour Bridge and Metropolitan Railway Construction. He was transferred to the Railway Commissioners in 1917. He retired in 1933 following completion of the Sydney Harbour the Story Bridge, Brisbane.

