

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



## Light rail construction: Workforce kept in the dark until the last minute

The NSW Government finally released its plans about bus route changes as construction for the George Street light rail ramps up in October – and we're expecting chaos to ensue for both commuters and bus drivers.

For many commuters it will mean longer walks, two or three buses where they once had a direct trip, or even that they have to pay more to take both a bus and a train.

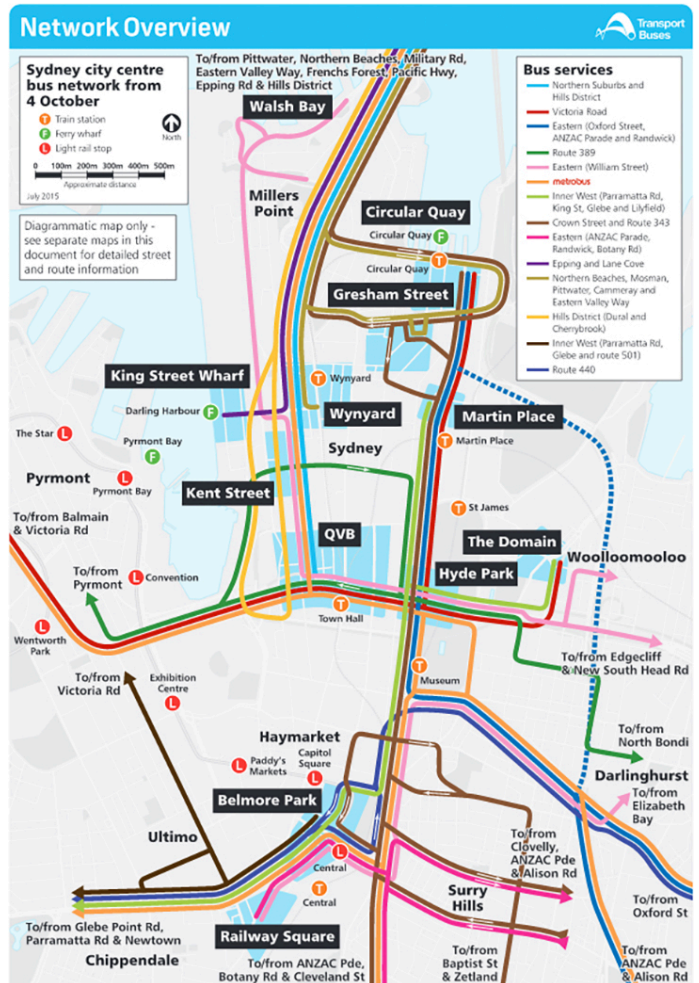
For bus operators, it will inevitably mean traffic congestion and dealing with stressed and frustrated passengers. On top of it all, runs are likely to be cut short, which could lead to fewer hours of work.

Ever since the original plans for the light rail were released we have been repeatedly calling on the Government to consult with drivers and to release its plans for public scrutiny. But we heard nothing from the Government until after the plans were announced to the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Many drivers will remember the absolute mess caused back in January when construction started, and the Government failed to properly brief drivers and come up with adequate plans for the disruption. Passengers were left sitting in traffic for up to two hours in peak hour and many took their frustration out on the driver.

When the new bus routes start in October we will be urging passengers not to blame the drivers – we certainly didn't have any input into the NSW Government's transport plans.

Read more on Bus Express: [www.busexpress.com.au](http://www.busexpress.com.au)



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## We need maternity uniforms

At the most recent RTBU Women's Campaigns Committee meeting, one concern raised was about STA's lack of maternity uniform.

Not having access compromises the comfort of staff members who are pregnant and is just one way STA could improve to make a more female-friendly work environment.

Currently if you are a pregnant employee your only option is to request a 'made to measure' uniform which would cost you extra out of your uniforms allowance.

Are you a female bus driver with care responsibilities? What do you think could be improved? Let us know: [info@busexpress.com.au](mailto:info@busexpress.com.au)



*Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way*



*Vice President Brett Peters*  
**Know your Rights**

## True fighter Andy West slowly recovering



Popular RTBU Willoughby delegate Andy West has been engaged in a massive battle with cancer, which saw him hospitalised and in intensive care for nearly an entire month.

Andy is now slowly but surely regaining his strength and after a final round of cancer treatment in the coming weeks he expects to continue his (slow) journey back to good health.

We are all thinking of you Andy and we wish you a full recovery in due course.

Thanks to Norm Padroth, Allan Waugh and Jon Russell who continue to work together to look after members at Willoughby in Andy's absence.

### Hours of work

#### 27.8 Interval between shifts

No employee shall be called upon to begin a new shift without having been off duty for at least ten consecutive hours, and no deduction of pay is to be made for ordinary time of duty occurring during this absence.

