

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Another 11th hour announcement leaves workers in the dark

Despite promising consultation with workers and Hunter commuters before making any decision on whether or not to privatise the city's entire public transport system, the Baird Government has moved ahead with sell off plans and broke his promise.

The union met with Minister Constance's office and Transport for NSW just last week. At no point did they say that the project was advancing, nor did they mention one word about this announcement. They have been purposefully hiding information from the public.



This is a grubby deal which will see Newcastle's public transport services handed over to Mike Baird's private sector mates.

We'll fight this decision every step of the way, and we'll stand side by side with the people of Newcastle to save their public transport services from the Baird Government and their cronies.

No action on security leaves bus drivers in danger

With more violent attacks on a Sydney Buses, the union has called for harsher penalties for offenders who assault drivers, passengers, and damage buses.

These offenders think they can take advantage of situations to intimidate and harass bus operators.

The NSW Government needs to take the safety of drivers seriously and ensure that offenders are caught, and face suitable punishments.



We are fighting for safety screens on all buses in the fleet, and we need dedicated transit officers for buses because the current 'flying squad' model just doesn't work when you need them most.



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Opal card still facing challenges on buses



Close to 8000 Opal card reader breakdowns on Sydney buses each year are being blamed on major glitches in computer equipment and staff shortages at the contractor hired to run the system.

Every depot in Sydney and Newcastle has had problems with the system, and drivers have lost their patience with the constant hardware crashes that cause safety problems and delays.

Drivers shouldn't have to face the brunt of complaints from passengers for a problem that is completely out of their hands.

The government needs to act to ensure that the system is up and running. They need to hold the private contractor Cubic TS to account for letting the system fail more than 8,000 times last year.



*Divisional Secretary Chris Preston
Divisional President David Woollams*



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

Marathon meeting rejects light rail EA

In a four-hour meeting with Chris Preston and David Woollams, 40 members from light rail made it clear they won't be copping the current draft enterprise agreement from Transdev.

This shows just how passionate the members are about this issue and how important it is that we get the right agreement for our members.



Whether it's wage issues, rostering, safety, or overcrowding, these are all things that need to be considered in the enterprise agreement.

It's important that the union is able to fight for the best possible deal for members and to ensure they are recognised for the role they play in keeping Sydney moving.

If Transdev refuses to make the necessary amendments to the draft agreement, the union will discuss with members about taking other action to secure a better deal.

Overtime

30.4 An employee called upon to work overtime beyond the normal rostered shift after 11.30 pm and before 5.30 am shall, upon request, be provided by the employer with transport to or from the employee's place of residence.

