

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Drivers' vision for NSW transport

In the last Bus Express we asked for your ideas about how you would improve public transport in NSW. Since then we have been inundated with great, practical ideas.

It is no shock that the people who work on the transport network every day know best how it could be improved.

The Minister for Transport will finalise a Long-Term Transport Masterplan for NSW this year and the RTBU will be putting in a submission.

You can help us by joining the discussion on Bus Express. So far we have received a number of excellent responses:

*Police the transit/bus lanes - **Amanda Resch***

*Stop collecting cash fares - **Les Garam***

*Terminate all city bound services at a point on the fringe of the CBD...increase the frequency and range of the City Free Shuttle - **Wyn Richards***

*Make bus lanes 24 hour, 7 days per week, increase the number of bus lanes - **Wayne Mather***

*Make ALL management and office staff spend one day - 8hrs - on a bus at least every three mts - **Ray Allen***

If you have an idea you would like to share, visit the Hot Topic at busexpress.com.au and leave your comment now.

While you are there be sure to register for updates on the site.



Meet your Delegate - Kelly Budden

Every month we'll be featuring a delegate on the Bus Express website and asking them a few questions about themselves.

Jump on to the site now and check it out – you might find out a few new things you didn't know!

Tram workers to vote on industrial action

Sydney Light Rail members are a step closer to taking industrial action after unacceptable wage rises were put forward by Veolia Transport in EBA negotiations.

The suggested pay rise, put forward after lengthy delays in progressive negotiations, pushed Tram and Bus Division members to advise their local delegates they are prepared to participate in a Fair Work Australia ballot for protected industrial action.

The application for a ballot was lodged with FWA on the 9th of February and the relevant documentation was served on Veolia Transport on the same day.

Members are encouraged to follow the progress of the negotiations and any subsequent disputes by staying in touch with their local delegate and looking for updates on Bus Express.



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Mould hazard at Mona Vale

Management at Mona Vale depot are trying to fob off drivers complaining about the awful smell of mould growing at the back of their buses, saying that the problem is all in their head.

Despite photographic evidence, showing mould growing all over the back seats, management has shown little interest in cleaning the seats which not only smell awful but are a health hazard to drivers and passengers.



The mould seems to be the result of leaks at the back of some B12 buses during the wet summer.

Drivers have been told there is nothing to worry about but management should be aware of the issue after similar problems arose two years ago on North Sydney buses. Drivers struggled then to have the mould removed, but eventually management had to concede there was a big problem.

If you have mould in your bus don't be intimidated, book it up and refuse to drive it. This is a public health issue and should not be tolerated by drivers just because STA doesn't want to spend the money fixing the problems.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way

Know your Rights



With Vice President

Brett Peters...

Table 4 and 5: Sign On and Off Allowances in Sydney and Newcastle

a) First sign on bus exit shed 10 Minutes

Drivers are allocated 10 minutes for sign on duties and pre-departure check before leaving the depot.

Randwick dispute over inductions for staff on loan

When a driver on loan from Leichhardt recently turned up to work at Randwick depot and was told there was no need for a depot induction, the RTBU immediately placed the matter into dispute.

The matter was resolved when the depot manager responded to the dispute, stating that any driver that is transferred would be rostered enough time to be inducted at the depot.

If you are on loan to another depot you must be inducted properly to the site. If you haven't, you cannot commence duty at that location. This also applies to vehicle inductions.

If you have any issues whilst on loan in regards to inductions ask for your local delegate to contact the Redfern office immediately.

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