



Secretary's message

Dear members,

Thank you to those who were able to come and join us at the beginning of the month in Ryde where we gathered with the Leader of the NSW Opposition, Luke Foley, Mayor of Ryde, Jerome Laxale, and local residents. We called upon the Member for Ryde, Victor Dominello MP to rule out the privatisation of buses in his area. You can read more about today's event in the story below.

In November we packed out Parliament again for the second debate on bus privatisation. Constance showed his true colours when he walked out of Parliament half way through the debate. We all know Constance doesn't care about public transport and he certainly doesn't care about commuters. It's time for him to go.

We had Labor, the Greens and the Shooters and Fishers party all speak up in Parliament to protect transport workers. But Constance, the one person in the room whose job it is to govern NSW Transport, walked away.

We were not surprised.

In Solidarity,

Chris Preston and Dave Woollams.



Minister Constance's grand plan for driverless buses hits a surprise snag

Andrew Constance's obsession with putting public bus drivers out of a job by introducing 'driverless buses' has hit a snag after one was involved in an accident in Las Vegas just two hours into its first day on the job.

To be fair, it was not the autonomous vehicles fault (a truck driver backed into it), by it does highlight the potentially serious consequences that can occur when you take a highly trained human bus driver away from behind the wheel.

Andrew Constance likes to talk a big game when it comes to driverless buses, but when it comes to driverless buses working Sydney's streets and replacing STA drivers, he does not have answers to questions like:

- How will an autonomous bus be able to see and wait bus for commuters running for it, or elderly passengers or people with prams who take longer to load and may require assistance?

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- Will an autonomous bus be able to detect a child who's caught in the doors?
- How will an autonomous bus see a person flagging down the bus?
- Who will evacuate the bus when there's a bus fire, as a highly trained STA bus driver did successfully and without serious injury or loss of life on the Sydney Harbour Bridge in September 2016?
- What if here's a medical emergency on the bus? Who will intervene? Contact emergency services? Divert the bus?
- Who will intervene if a passenger is verbally abusing or assaulting another passenger on the bus? Who will contact the Police?
- How can we be certain the driverless bus network will not be vulnerable to hacking and cyber terrorism?
- Autonomous buses operate on GPS and an array of senses. What if those sensors fail on Sydney's hectic roads?
- We know that the NBN is unreliable, mobile phone coverage is patchy and can drop out, how can we be sure those systems won't fail, leading to disaster?

Read the full story on Bus Express.



Uber style buses to spell disaster in regional and rural NSW

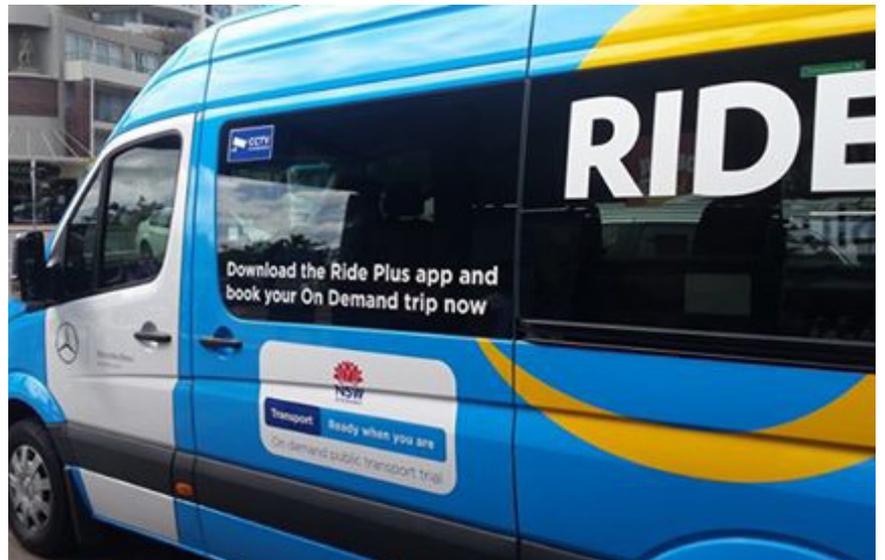
The announcement by Constance to extend the trial of uber-style buses to regional and rural NSW further demonstrates this Minister does not know how to run our transport.

Minister Constance's pie in the sky 'Uber bus scheme' has been trialled in Boston, Washington, Kansas and Helsinki and in all cases they have gone broke because the cost and subsidies per rider were simply too high.

The trial of these buses in Sydney began in only August this year, so to go ahead and roll out these buses in regional and rural NSW is simply reckless.

Chris Preston, RTBU Bus Division Secretary says, "This decision shows that Minister Constance only cares about quick sales and making a dollar rather than improving our existing public transport system.

These uber style buses will fail just like they have everywhere else, and commuters and taxpayers will be left to pick up the tab for Constance's incompetence. The tender process will begin shortly, with the roll out to begin late 2018.



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Campaigning to protect Ryde's public buses

At the start of the month we gathered with Leader of the Opposition, Luke Foley, and the Mayor of Ryde, Jerome Laxale to call upon Victor Dominello MP to protect Ryde's public buses.

Jerome Laxale announced at the event that he will be running against Victor Dominello MP for Ryde in the next election, and plans on putting the protection of Ryde's public buses at the forefront of his election campaign. He knows the community desperately rely on their public services and can't afford to have them sold off to private operators.

A recent poll of local residents found that 76 per cent of Ryde are concerned about the prospect of their bus services being privatised. You can read the poll results on Bus Express.



We know the NSW Minister for Transport, Andrew Constance, has publicly boasted that his vision is to sell off our entire public transport network in NSW. He's already started his privatisation scheme in the Inner West and now it's feared that Ryde could be next. Read the full story on Bus Express.

“We're all on this bus together” Tassie Safety Campaign

The RTBU has proudly launched the first stage of a National Safety Campaign for bus drivers. The launch in Tasmania has been tagged “We're all on this bus together” and serves as a public reminder to be conscious of driver safety.



New timetable

One of the biggest overhauls to timetables in NSW began on November 26, with very mixed responses from commuters so far.

We're urging commuters to be patient and respectful to our bus drivers and to remember that transport workers are not responsible for this change, as the NSW Government haven't consulted with workers at all.

There is an online survey where commuters can log their concern on <http://ourtransport.org.au/new-timetable-woes-tell-us/>

