

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW TRAM AND BUS DIVISION



## Thanks for your support

Thank you to all our members for showing your support over the last month of events.

We've been hitting the streets to stop bus privatisation, going to Parliament for the debate, and rallying with workers in Newcastle to kick out Andrew Constance from the NSW Government.

We presented 60 motions of no confidence as workers across the state are fed up with having an incompetent Minister for Transport. You can read about the event below.

It's been a great show of solidarity from members across the divisions as Constance's attack is not just on our bus drivers in Newcastle and region 6, but across all transport networks.

It's Constance's dream to sell off the entire network and have an automated transport system with no workers. This is a disgrace, and together, we won't let this happen.

We will keep you up to date with all the latest on Bus Express – so make sure you are subscribed to our fortnightly emails by contacting NSW@rtbu-nsw.asn.au.



Channel 7 on public opinion on Bus Privatisation

## Hitting the news with bus privatisation facts

Last week Channel 7 broadcasted the evidence loud and clear - commuters do not want their public buses to be sold off into public hands.

A ReachTEL poll of residents in the electorates of Coogee, Ryde, the Northern Beaches and Drummoyne – all areas bus drivers believe could be next on the NSW Government's privatisation hit list – reveals commuters are by and large happy with their current bus services and believe the only people set to benefit from privatisation are the private companies themselves and the government – not commuters.

The NSW Government has already announced the privatisation of 'region 6' buses in Sydney's inner-west and Transport Minister, Andrew Constance, has suggested further privatisation could be on the cards.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Tram and Bus Divisional Secretary, Chris Preston told media that the poll findings highlight serious commuter concerns about privatisation and show NSW residents aren't buying the Government's rhetoric.

"The overwhelming majority of people do not want buses in their area sold off to private companies," Mr Preston said.

"This should act as a real wake up call to the NSW Government. Commuters are making it very clear that they do not want their services privatised.

"Commuters simply aren't buying the rubbish the Transport Minister is sprouting about privatisation being good for us. Everyone can see right through the spin. They know that the only people set to benefit from privatisation are the private companies themselves and the NSW Government."

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## Hitting the streets to protect NSW public transport from privatisation

This month we've been out at local bus stops across Sydney informing commuters about the threat of bus privatisation for their local buses. So far we've been out in Coogee, Ryde and the Northern beaches! Thank you to those who have come along.



## Sydney's light rail a disaster

The bungling of Sydney's CBD light rail is just another example of why this NSW Government cannot be trusted. Constance and his Government continue to hide documents which indicate our tax payer money is going down the drain on poorly planned projects.

You can read all about the different issues with Sydney's light rail on Bus Express.

## Second Parliament debate coming up!

On Thursday October 12, the first debate about Sydney's bus privatisation was held in Parliament.

Constance rambled off lies upon lies about how "fantastic" privatising public services is, and meanwhile Opposition Minister for Transport, Jodi McKay was ordered to "get out" after speaking up against Constance's nonsense.

Constance went to walk out TWICE throughout the debate - proving that when the going gets tough, the Transport Minister gets going. We were proud to be there, packing out Parliament, making our voices, and the voices of the community heard.

On November 16, we will be packing out Parliament again to hear the second debate on bus privatisation. Don't miss it! We will send out an email invitation with a time to meet.



DIVISIONAL SECRETARY  
CHRIS PRESTON

DIVISIONAL PRESIDENT  
DAVID WOOLLAMS



## No confidence in Constance

On October 13 we rallied in Newcastle to present 60 signed motions of No Confidence against the incompetent Minister for Transport, Andrew Constance. We could feel the anger and frustration in the air as we joined with transport workers from across divisions in Newcastle.

We had members there whose pay has been wrong for months, and while Constance and Keolis call them “teething problems”, that buck doesn’t pass with us. The Minister was more interested in palming off the Newcastle buses into private hands than he was concerned about workers, their jobs, and commuters – who are now all paying the price.

This Minister has no interest in improving jobs or transport in Newcastle. He’s just interested in keeping his mates happy and attacking jobs and unions.

He started his privatisation scheme in Newcastle, and now he’s doing the same thing with the region 6 buses in Sydney. And we know it’s not the end. Constance’s tenure has been full of transport failures, budget blow-outs and decisions which continuously put his own greed above commuter interests.

We’ve had enough.

We’re proud of the workers across the state who have taken a stand and moved motions of no confidence in the Transport Minister, Andrew Constance as we presented them in Newcastle.

Thank you to everyone who signed the motion and particularly to the workers in for joining us in Newcastle.



## Newcastle drivers on ‘a downer’

On October 9th, we spoke to Shadow Transport Minister Jodi McKay and Newcastle MPs about our rising frustration and concerns with driver underpayment in Newcastle. This level of incompetence is not good enough, and is a direct result of Minister Constance’s rushed and greedy sell off scheme.

You can check out the TV and newspaper coverage on Bus Express.



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