

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Welcome back to Bus Express

2012 has well and truly kicked off and it's going to be a big year in transport.

The State Government will be releasing a discussion paper this month to kick off public consultation around a Long-Term Transport Masterplan for the NSW public transport system.

The Government says it's willing to listen to everyone's ideas.

When it comes to public transport, everyone has an idea about how it can be improved - but nobody knows more about our transport network than the people who work on it every day.

A draft version of the Masterplan is due to be released for further consultation in the middle of the year, before the final version is released in November.

This could mean big changes to the operation of Sydney's bus services, and to the future of our jobs.

It's important that we get involved in this process and have our say – otherwise we could be stuck with all sorts of changes thought up by people who don't understand how bus services work.

Already, people are making suggestions about radical changes.

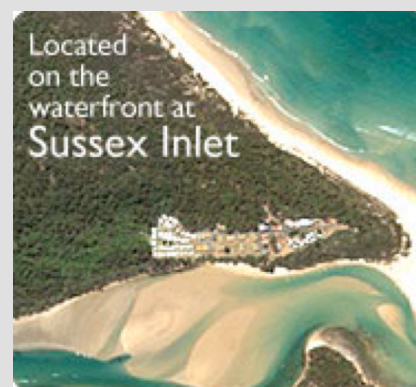
Now is the time to tell us what do you think. How would you go about improving STA bus services?

If you've been keeping some ideas in your head, visit the Hot Topic at busexpress.com.au and leave your comment now.

And while you are there make sure you register for updates on the site. The Bus Express dream holiday will be drawn next week so register now to go into the draw for a free week's holiday at the RTBU's beachside retreat at Sussex Inlet. Second prize will be a weekend at Sussex Inlet.

You have to be in it to win it – so sign up now to keep up to date with important information on what is happening in your workplace.

Register for Bus Express Updates and WIN!!!!



The RTBU's Sussex Inlet holiday park is the perfect getaway – whether you are looking for a family holiday or a quiet getaway.

Register for updates at busexpress.com.au now and you could win one of two holiday packages.

The winner will be drawn next week so make sure you don't miss out.

The beach is waiting!!

www.busexpress.com.au
Sign up now, and get your news as it happens!



Bus drivers and speeding fines

The Sunday Telegraph recently ran a story about the amount of traffic fines collected by NSW bus drivers.

The RTBU provided a detailed response to the newspaper explaining that bus drivers are expected to do their best to keep to bus timetables, but this can be extremely difficult in Sydney.

There is huge pressure on drivers shoulders, who have to drive large vehicles through narrow and crowded streets, monitor passenger behaviour and make sure people are paying their fares – all at the same time.

With drivers spending around eight hours a day on the road, every day, it is inevitable that we will occasionally pick up traffic infringements.

Despite these pressures very few of the speeding fines were incurred by State Transit drivers. Only just over a third of fines were attributed to State Transit and private bus drivers with the vast majority handed out to tourist and coach buses.

No driver sets out to break the road rules. Drivers who lose their bus licenses also lose their livelihoods. But drivers are responsible for their own demerit points so we encourage everyone to take care on the road.

Keep your passengers safe, and your license intact! Read the full article at busexpress.com.au

Meet your Delegate: Kelly Budden, Hamilton Depot

Why did you become involved in the union?

I wanted to try and make a difference and to help protect and maintain member's rights and conditions at work.

What are your hobbies and interests?

Socialising, music, art and humanism.

Where do you live and why do you like it?

I live in Shortland. It has everything, shopping centres, beaches – why would you leave?

Who would you like to have dinner with (dead or alive) and why?
Billy Bragg, my hero.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way

Know your Rights



With Vice President Brett Peters....

23. Excess Travelling Time

23.1 Employees covered under this Award (Bus Operator) when required to sign on or off at a place other than their home depot which is at a greater distance from their home than their home depot, shall be allowed payment at the appropriate rate for the day for the excess travelling time.

A total of 25 minutes each day for a straight shift and 40 minutes on a broken shift, will be allowed to cover time occupied in waiting for schedule connections.

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Sign up now, and get your news as it happens!

