

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



It's enough: More violence on Sydney Buses

Yet more footage has come to light showing the behaviour that drivers are having to cope with from unruly, rude and violent passengers, after this story ran earlier in the month about the worst bus routes in Sydney.

Divisional President Gary Way appeared on Channel 9 last Monday after footage was discovered by the news team of a driver being assaulted on the M40 bus.



Gary explained how driving a bus is a difficult and sometimes dangerous occupation. It was clear from the footage that the bus driver did the right thing - he stayed calm and followed emergency procedures ensuring the safety of passengers on the bus.

But doing the right thing came at a cost to his personal safety and this shouldn't be the case. A more visible security presence is needed on buses. The union is extremely concerned about the lack of security personnel and prominent security cameras available on buses.

Have you had a similar experience to this driver? Are there routes that you don't like driving because they are particularly bad?

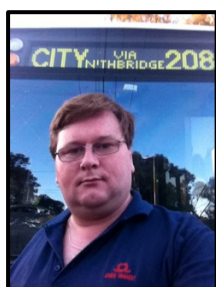
Go to the Hot Topic on www.busexpress.com.au now to see the footage and share your story now!

Update on uniform dispute

The Chief Industrial Magistrate has made comments in ongoing proceedings, which would suggest that the uniform allowance clause in our Award which was agreed on in 2007 is completely inadequate. The magistrate stated in court that the clause was "poorly written with no amount stipulated", he suggested that in the absence of an amount it would be very difficult for him to make orders.

The magistrate indicated that he found it disappointing that in 2007 STA and the Union allowed the clause in its current form to be inserted in the Award. He instructed STA to write to the Union suggesting a dollar amount of the annual uniform allowance.

While the Union solicitors acknowledged the magistrate's comments and the associated difficulties, they are still confident that the Award can be varied to stipulate a dollar amount for the allowance.



Meet your delegate – Alan Burke

Every month we feature a delegate on the Bus Express website and ask them a few questions about themselves.

This week it's Alan from Willoughby. Go to busexpress.com.au/your-local-delegate/ – you might find out a few new things you didn't know!

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



Monorail must be replaced by better public transport

The State Government today announced that it has bought out Metro Transport Sydney, and will tear down the monorail.

Metro Transport Sydney is the manager of the Monorail and the Sydney light rail service.

The light rail service will continue to be operated by Veolia Transport Australia, as normal, under contract to the State Government. Bus and Tram Division Secretary Chris Preston said the State Government should seek to redeploy monorail workers to other parts of the public transport network.

"The State Government has an obligation to look after the workers who will be affected by this decision.

"They should be provided with opportunities to work on the light rail system if possible, or found other jobs in the public transport network."

Chris called on the State Government to guarantee that the light rail network would be extended into the city to provide tourists and commuters with better transport options.

"The monorail might not be as loved as the Harbour Bridge or the Opera House, but it is popular with visitors and has survived as a viable business for 20 years.

"It has provided visitors with an efficient link between the CBD and Darling Harbour, and a chance to see a different view of the city.

"It is shame to lose it, but we have to look forward to make sure that something better is built in its place."

The State Government has said that pulling down the monorail will make it easier to expand light rail.

"We're concerned that this is just a throw-away line to justify tearing down a piece of transport infrastructure," Chris said.

"We need to see a rock-solid guarantee from the Minister that public transport services into the CBD will be improved. Tearing things down is easy – it's time for this Government to start improving bus and tram services."



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way



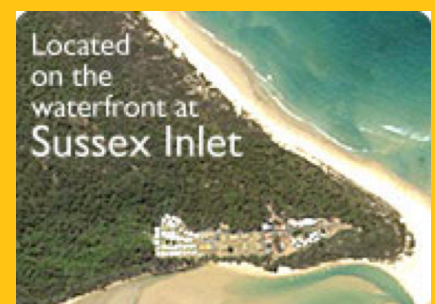
Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

34. Cancellation of rostered day off

34.4 When an employee works on their rostered day off and is not given another day off in lieu in the same week, time worked shall stand alone and be paid at double time, if a Saturday, or at the rate of time and a half for the first three hours and double time if Monday to Friday.

RTBU Holiday Park

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