

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



## Pay rise delivered on time

Contrary to rumours, the pay increase due on the 15th April 2012 was delivered on time without delay.

This pay rise comes despite the O'Farrell Government's unfair wage policy that caps any increase at 2.5 per cent unless employees can demonstrate cost offsets.

The paper work for this pay rise had to be approved by State Treasury as these cost offsets have to be in the bank before any money is released to fund the increases.

The next 3.25 per cent pay rise is due on 1st January 2013 and the union will be monitoring closely to ensure that all cost offset initiatives are met so the scheduled pay rise can go through on time.

## Union to keep close eye on "cost saving reforms"

A notice has been issued to all State Transit employees following the Transport Minister's announcement that private bus operators will be required to tender for existing metropolitan bus contracts.

Mr Rowley confirmed that the Sydney Buses contract would not be put to tender, which is good news for buses.

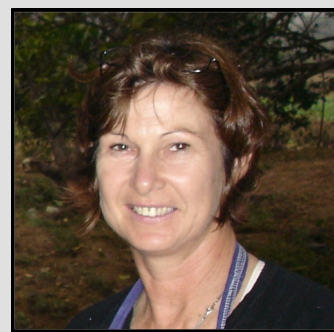
However, your union is very concerned about Mr Rowley's statement that STA will be looking at "significant cost saving reforms" without offering any details regarding what form they will take.

We know our members are already extremely efficient and await further details about how cost savings can be achieved without affecting services or the working conditions of drivers with considerable interest.

Attacks on wages or Award conditions will absolutely not be tolerated. We will keep you posted as more information comes to hand.

You can read the full letter at [www.busexpress.com.au](http://www.busexpress.com.au)

## Meet your delegate: Narelle Sinclair

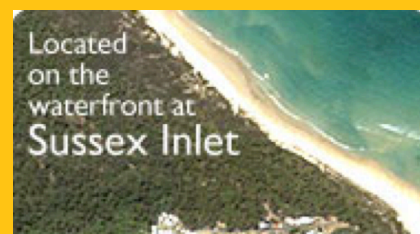


Every month we feature a delegate on the Bus Express website and ask them a few questions about themselves.

This month it's Narelle from Brookvale. Check out the website now - you might find out something you didn't know!

## RTBU Holiday Park

Book at [www.busexpress.com.au](http://www.busexpress.com.au)



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

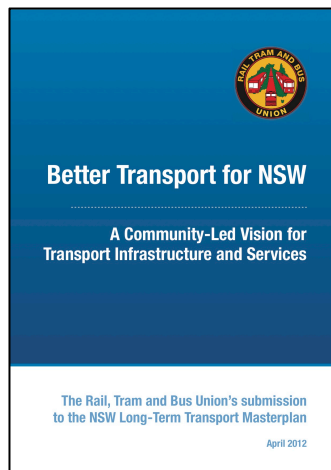
## Your Ideas Submitted To The Transport Masterplan

Ideas put forward by drivers on how to improve Sydney buses formed part of the RTBU's final submission to the NSW Long-Term Transport Masterplan.

RTBU Branch Secretary Alex Claassens launched the submission at an event attended by Chris Preston and Gary Way at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts.

You can view the submission at [www.busexpress.com.au](http://www.busexpress.com.au).

The RTBU will be keeping a close eye on the process to advocate for a robust plan that supports workers and will deliver a world-class transport system.



**Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way**



**Vice President Brett Peters Know your Rights**

## An Increase In Cyclists Causes Frustration For Drivers

Ash Sarker delegate at Tempe has reported that there is some confusion amongst drivers about cyclists and bus lanes.

Drivers are becoming frustrated with cyclists in the bus lane, but the RTA confirms that buses, taxis, hire cars, emergency vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles are all allowed to use the lanes.

"As more and more people ride bikes to commute to work it's a situation where bus drivers and cyclists need to learn to share the road," said Ash.

The problem says, Wendy Wirth from Waverly depot, is that bicycles have no number plates and drivers have no recourse when cyclists are deliberately disruptive or aggressive to buses.

Incidents with cyclists include riding in front of the bus as an act of road rage, hurling abuse, or objects at the driver, spitting or ripping off mirrors. One of the main problems is when a rider is going 20kph or less in a bus lane at peak hour causing the trip to run late.

Despite the difficulty around sharing bus lanes with cyclists, it is important to remember that they are legally able to be in the bus lane so where possible drivers should seek to give cyclists a wide berth.

### 61. Personal Carers' Leave

61.3 An employee must, if required by the employer, establish by production of a medical certificate OR statutory declaration, the illness of the person concerned and that the illness is such as to require care by another.

Provided that, a medical certificate will be required to support any Carer's leave in excess of 5 days per annum, unless otherwise approved by the employee's manager.

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