

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW TRAM AND BUS DIVISION



## Secretary's message

Dear members,

As you may have seen in the news, Constance and the NSW Government announced the closure date of the Epping to Chatswood rail line, which will be September 30 this year.

For seven months, they've promised commuters 110 buses an hour, every peak hour.

Where they'll pull these buses and drivers from...we don't know. What we do know is that they've struggled to fill bus driver demand across the state's current services, so we have no idea where the extra drivers will come from.

Typical of this NSW Liberal Government, they haven't consulted the union about these closures and what it means for workers, but as always, we will keep you up to date on Bus Express as we get more information.

Meanwhile, Novocastrians are cautiously rejoicing as public pressure has forced Keolis Downer to announce they will be amending their bus timetable. We are yet to know the extent of the changes, so we're holding our breath until we know exactly what commuters are in for. If you're in Newcastle, you would've heard Dave Woollams, RTBU Bus & Tram Division President, on radio across all Newcastle stations about this announcement, and you can read what he said in our media release below.

Also a reminder that we have the Sydney May Day rally coming up on May 6th, and it's important this year more than ever to come along, get involved and make our voices loud and clear. We need to show this NSW Government that we, the transport workers of NSW, are strong, united and ready to fight back. We had a great May Day rally in Newcastle at the end of April which you can see photos of below.

In Solidarity,

Chris Preston and Dave Woollams

## Newcastle Herald: Keolis Downer announces new direct bus connections in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie timetable shake-up

Direct connections between eastern Lake Macquarie and two of the region's major shopping and business hubs are among the changes Newcastle's bus operator will introduce in July.

The Newcastle Herald can reveal that Keolis Downer will amend its new timetable - which has been the subject of public outcry in recent months - in response to community feedback. C

ardiff and Macquarie Hills will get a direct service to Kotara, as will south eastern Lake Macquarie with Charlestown. Direct services between Swansea Heads, Charlestown and Newcastle CBD will also be added to the timetable. [Read the full article in the Newcastle Herald](#)

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## Secret documents detailing Sydney's \$2.1b light rail won't be released

Once again, this NSW Government is shrouding its transport projects in secrecy. The public deserve to know where their tax payer dollars are going, and it looks like most of it is going down the drain.

[Read an excerpt from the Sydney Morning Herald below, or full article on the SMH](#)

"The Opposition's attempt to force the state government to release confidential internal reports about what was known about Sydney's troubled \$2.1 billion light rail line has failed.

An appeal panel of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) has found an overriding public interest against the release of four documents about construction of the light rail line from Circular Quay to Randwick and Kensington in the city's south east."

## RTBU Media Release: Finally. New Newcastle bus timetable long overdue

April 20, 2018

"Any new bus timetable in Newcastle must be drafted in consultation with the community and drivers, the RTBU said today.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Tram and Bus Division President, Dave Woollams, said that news today that Keolis Downer will change its problem-ridden timetable is very welcomed, albeit it long overdue.

However, the RTBU warned that the company would end up in a similar predicament unless it committed to properly consulting with the community and workers on the timetable changes.

"It's great to see the company has finally listened to the concerns of workers and commuters and taken action, but we're not going to get too excited until we see the details of the changes," Mr Woollams said."

[Read the full Media Release on Bus Express.](#)

## Newcastle May Day Rally

Newcastle workers joined together on April 29 for a fantastic May Day rally. Thanks to all Bus & Tram members for marching in solidarity with other workers across Newcastle on Sunday.



DIVISIONAL SECRETARY  
CHRIS PRESTON

DIVISIONAL PRESIDENT  
DAVID WOOLLAMS

## International Workers Day Memorial

The RTBU attended Memorial Services in Sydney and Newcastle for Workers to mourn workers who have been injured or killed at work.



THE BUS & TRAM DIVISION AT THE  
NEWCASTLE SERVICE

