



Secretary's message

Dear members,

Thanks to those who joined us at the rally in Newcastle as we protested against the chaos that Constance's greedy bus privatisation has caused.

For members closer to Sydney, the annual May Day rally is fast approaching so it's time to book it in your diaries. This is the rally of the year not to miss.

As transport workers who've been the target of relentless attacks from this Liberal Government, it's our chance to pack out the march and say enough is enough.

It's time to show our strength in numbers and make our voices loud.

If you haven't attended a May Day rally before, we strongly encourage you to attend. It's a family friendly day with a BBQ and kids activities below. It's a fun and empowering day for all, and also a chance to catch up with your comrades.

You can read more about what May Day is, and why you should join us, below.

In Unity,

Chris Preston and Dave Woollams

Media Release: Constance caught out fibbing about transport figures – again

The Transport Minister, Andrew Constance, has been caught lying to the public yet again – this time about the number of people walking away from Newcastle's newly privatised bus service.

Newcastle's bus service has descended into chaos since the Transport Minister hastily sold off the service to the private sector, with workers being forced to deal with underpayment and poor rostering and commuters

Rally to fix Newcastle buses

In March we rallied in Newcastle to say enough is enough, demanding that Minister Constance fix Newcastle buses after he recklessly sold them off.

Novocastrians have had their bus network sent into chaos since the private operator has cut routes, removed bus stops and reduced services. We've said this all along, this is what happens when you privatise public transport. Read the news coverage on Bus Express.



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May Day 2018, are you coming?

The RTBU will be attending this year's May Day event in full force, and we want as many members to come along and join us on Sunday, May 6th.

What is May Day?

May Day is an annual day of action to celebrate the achievement of our union movement and workers' rights across the world.

For us at the RTBU NSW Bus & Tram Division, it's our time to stand up against this Liberal Government – in particular – Andrew Constance. Our workforce has been consistently under attack with the Liberal Government's obsession with privatisation and we must stand up and fight back. May 6th is the day to do it.

We'll be joining together to march with our friends and family through the streets of Sydney with a BBQ and an afternoon of family fun, so please join us.

The first 100 members to RSVP will get a free RTBU May Day t-shirt! RSVP by emailing nswho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au - Get in quick!

If you don't get involved in union events much – May Day is the ONE day this year you should join in and get involved! Don't miss out on this national day of action.

[Check out the Facebook event here.](#)



DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
CHRIS PRESTON

DIVISIONAL PRESIDENT
DAVID WOOLLAMS

subjected to a shocking new timetable.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Tram and Bus Division Secretary, Chris Preston, said it is no surprise that Newcastle commuters are walking away from the bus system.

“That's what happens when you privatise an essential transport service – the service declines and people walk away. We're seeing in Newcastle, and we'll see it elsewhere too,” Mr Preston said.

[Read the full media release on Bus Express](#) and read the Newcastle Herald story below.

“Opal card data shows a decline in patronage on Newcastle buses in February yearly comparison

Opal card data released by the NSW Government of Newcastle's bus network shows a two per cent decrease in patronage in a yearly comparison of the month of February.

Patronage via Opal cards decreased from 402,000 in 2017 to 394,000 in 2018, a reduction of 8,000 trips.

The release of the figures comes after a protest at Hamilton on Sunday where Labor MPs demanded an independent review into the bus network changes.”

[Read the full story by Max McKinney in the Newcastle Herald.](#)

Media release: Overseas bus driver recruitment worrying sign for inner-west commuters and workers

The Transport Minister needs to confirm that he will not leave the newly privatised inner-west bus service in disarray, like he did with Newcastle buses, and that Australian bus drivers will be given first priority of jobs, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union said today.

RTBU Tram and Bus Division Secretary, Chris Preston, said revelations today that bus drivers are being brought in from overseas to work on the recently privatised region six service are incredibly concerning.

“It is incredibly worrying that already the private company looks to have been left hung out to dry by the Transport Minister, with so few drivers employed that they're having to advertise overseas,” Mr Preston said.

“When the Transport Minister sold off Newcastle's bus network, he left it in tatters and it still hasn't recovered.

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