

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Record number of bus drivers attend public sector rally

Hundreds of Sydney and Newcastle bus drivers turned out at yesterday's public sector rally in the Domain, providing a good illustration of the level of anger among workers at the O'Farrell Government's IR legislation.

Members from every depot joined around 35,000 public sector workers from across the State to march under the RTBU banner. Members listened to powerful speeches from Unions NSW Secretary Mark Lennon and a range of passionate rank and file workers.

The campaign continues to grow at a rapid rate as workers begin to realise what they stand to lose in the way of rights, conditions and also financially.



Addressing the media pack after the rally, Bus Division officials Gary Way and Chris Preston stood shoulder to shoulder with other union leaders and vowed to continue the fight for as long as it takes.

RTBU Officials wish to thank all of our members who were able to make it on the day - you certainly did your work mates proud.

More online at busexpress.com.au

Check out more photos from the rally, the Hot Topic and all the Divisional news as it comes in.

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Minister rules out STA privatisation

Tram and Bus Division Officials Gary Way and Chris Preston attended a community Q&A evening forum on Wednesday 31 August at Artarmon Community Hall. Together with Bus Drivers from the local Willoughby Depot, Chris and Gary waited patiently for the "late running" Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian who was the guest of honour at the forum.

It certainly was worth the wait, however, when the Minister announced to the audience that it is not Coalition policy to privatise State Transit, in response to a question from Gary.

This public announcement in the presence of a wide cross section of witnesses was welcome and the union will be doing everything possible to ensure this commitment is maintained into the future.



Funding for public transport infrastructure 'half the picture'

The State Budget contained funding for a number of bus and tram projects, but this investment will be wasted if there are not enough workers to run services.

RTBU (NSW) Secretary Alex Claassens said 350 jobs were being cut to 'back office' staff in transport agencies, but the State Government had not announced any new front-line service positions.

"The State Budget delivers on new rail infrastructure and provides essential funding for new trains and buses," Alex said.

"But to deliver high-quality services you need to have enough staff to drive the trains and buses, to sell tickets and protect passengers."

Budget announcements for the bus industry included:

- purchasing 261 new buses, worth \$118.8 million, including 95 buses for STA;
- spending \$45 million for new bus depots to accommodate growth in the bus fleet;
- spending \$7.6 million over four years to increase Nightride bus services;
- spending \$3 million for studies into a bus rapid transit system for the northern beaches.

The State Government also committed \$103 million for light rail projects in Sydney – including the extension of the current line to Dulwich Hill, and for a study into potential new routes to the University of NSW and the University of Sydney.



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

Light Rail EA talks begin



On Friday September 2, Divisional Officers Chris Preston and David Woollams met with Luke Hayden and representatives from the Veolia Light Rail Division in order to formulate a log of claims in preparation for the expiry of the current EA on October 31 this year.

The workshop was helpful in identifying several working conditions that need to be improved for staff.

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Know your rights with Brett Peters



Section 60. Personal Sick Leave

60.2 An employee is entitled to the following amount of paid leave for absence due to personal illness or injury:

(i) Fifteen working days for all employees except for those nominated in 16.2 (ii); or

Divisional Vice President

(ii) Employees who commenced on or after 1 February 1995:

- Eight working days per year for up to 5 years service;*
- Ten working days per year from 5 to 7 years service; and*
- Fifteen working days per year for over 7 years service.*

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