



RAIL, TRAM & BUS UNION
Tram & Bus Division

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Redfern NSW 2016
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Chris Preston – Divisional Secretary
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Our Ref: RTBUDSC 186/11 CP

25th October, 2011

Mr P Rowley
Chief Executive Officer
State Transit Authority
Level 1 219-241 Cleveland Street
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2010

Dear Rowley

After recent events in relation to the Gas Powered buses and subsequent Industrial Relations Commission hearings, STA and the Union were directed by Commissioner Ritchie to sit down and have formal discussions in relation to the fire on the Gas Powered bus.

As a result of the meeting the RTBU is formally requesting that following upgrades take place

- The Union wants a fire suppression system fitted to all the 255 Mercedes OC 500 gas buses.
- We also want a fire alarm in the drivers cabin, which we now know, is fitted to the 102 Scania Gas buses.
- We also want remedial training to be given to our members in relation to emergency procedures to do with gas powered vehicles.
- Also STA's radio room needs procedures in place so that when a driver of a gas powered bus puts a call into the radio room, then the radio room will go through a check list to ensure that all safety measures are met.

The Union believes that if the upgrades were in place, fires of which we have just witnessed will be almost eliminated.

Yours faithfully

CHRIS PRESTON
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
RTBU BUS AND TRAM DIVISION



Transport
State Transit

Our reference: C11/0249

7 November 2011

Mr. Chris Preston
Divisional Secretary
RTBU Bus and Tram Division
83-89 Renwick Street
REDFERN NSW 2016

Dear Mr. Preston

I am responding to your letter (RTBUDSC 186/11 CP) regarding the outcome of discussions about gas powered buses.

In our view, all our gas buses are safe and there is insufficient evidence to suggest they are not. Nonetheless State Transit had already taken steps to fit a fire suppression system to the OC0500LE CNG buses in the fleet.

State Transit wishes to advise that:

- 1) Specifications for an engine bay fire suppression system for the OC 0500 LE CNG are well advanced as is the funding provisions required to fit the fire suppression system.
- 2) The fire suppression system going in to the OC 0500 LE CNG buses will also incorporate a fire detection warning system to alert the driver.
- 3) The bus operator safety/skills maintenance training undertaken bi-annually included the emergency shutdown requirements for gas buses in the 2009 training. The training manual is now being updated to include a segment on emergency shutdown procedures for all gas buses, including the OC 0500 LE and this new training regime will commence in 2012.
- 4) The bus operator's handbook is in the process of being rewritten and more detailed information about fires on buses and emergency shutdown procedures are being included. The Network Control Centre training manual is being altered to include the segment from the bus operator's handbook regarding gas buses and the emergency shutdown procedures. In the meantime, a safety alert will be issued to all Bus Operators and Network Control Centre personnel.

I trust the aforementioned information addresses your concerns.

Yours sincerely

Peter Rowley
Chief Executive