



The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP
Minister for Transport

Your ref: RTBUDSC CP:lp 174/2012
ML12/08391

Mr Chris Preston
Divisional Secretary – Tram & Bus Division
Rail, Tram & Bus Union
83-89 Renwick Street
REDFERN NSW 2016

Dear Mr Preston,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September 2012 regarding security on Sydney and Newcastle buses. The safety of customers and transport staff is paramount.

The NSW Government recently announced the NSW Police Force will take over security for the entire public transport network under a new dedicated Police Transport Command. The new command will see 610 dedicated police officers allocated to patrol trains, buses and ferries. Transit officers will focus on detecting fare evasion and minor compliance offences and their patrols will be expanded to cover buses and ferries.

To improve security on buses, state-of-the-art digital CCTV cameras and duress alarms were installed across the entire State Transit bus fleet.

State Transit deploys security guards on bus services on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, travelling in identified problems areas such as the Northern Beaches and La Perouse. More security patrol cars are also being deployed to patrol these areas. The new late night bus services from Kings Cross will have a security guard on board. Buses driven in these areas are fitted with driver safety screens.

All State Transit bus drivers are trained in violence prevention which includes techniques to de-escalate conflict which may lead to violence. The training is provided to all new drivers and drivers are given refresher each year.

The NSW Government's tough legislation to protect public transport workers, including bus drivers, makes any attack on them an 'aggravating' factor in sentencing.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours faithfully,

15 OCT 2012

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Minister for Transport