



Rail, Tram and Bus Union

MEDIA RELEASE

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Traffic chaos: Bus drivers won't break the law to keep city moving

Buses and traffic could be banked up for kilometres in the CBD on Tuesday when the new bus timetable is implemented unless the State Government comes up with a plan that allows buses to turn legally at a key Elizabeth St intersection, drivers have warned.

Bus drivers say they already find it near impossible to turn left into Park Street from Elizabeth St before the traffic lights turn red, but with additional buses being redirected to the area as a result of the new timetable, the situation is set to get worse.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Bus Division Secretary Chris Preston said that bus drivers will, of course, refuse to risk running the red light on Tuesday and that the NSW Government needs to find a solution so that buses can pass through this intersection without being penalised – or risk traffic banking up for kilometres.

“Bus drivers will not break the law and risk losing their driver’s license in order to get through that intersection – we rely on that license to keep our jobs,” said Mr Preston.

“We’ve been calling on the State Government to take action to address the intersection for a long time. It’s ridiculous that drivers are being forced to risk breaking the law every time they try to get through the intersection.

“It’s an intersection which is already badly designed for buses and now there will be many more routes passing through.

“Drivers are already being booked by the red light camera there and losing three demerit points off their license – just for trying to get their passengers where they need to go.”

Mr Preston said the Government needed to have a serious look at how this and other intersections would cope with the influx of traffic following the closure of George Street.

“It’s up to the Government – not bus drivers - to provide a solution so that the city functions on Tuesday morning.

“Our drivers are not going to break the law and if there is no solution put in place the result will be traffic banking up for kilometres and a lot of frustrated commuters.”

“Bus drivers have been complaining about this intersection for many months now and without a plan in place we’re expecting it to cause major problems after the long weekend.”