



Our Ref: RTBUDSC 4/17 CP:KA

24th January, 2017

The Hon Premier Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the NSW Tram & Bus Division of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, I wish to congratulate you on being elected by your colleagues as the new Premier of our great state.

I know that your long experience as a Shadow Minister for Transport in Opposition, and then Minister for Transport in the O'Farrell and Baird Governments, has given you a deep understanding and appreciation of the transport issues facing people across NSW. Public transport is the key to fixing the transport crisis in NSW, and to reducing the crippling economic and social burden of transport congestion. It is also essential to the goal of social inclusion, as access to public transport ensures people from all walks of life can participate in their communities.

Public transport is therefore a critical public asset that must be operated for the public benefit. Recent decisions by the Baird Government, however, have sacrificed the public benefit in order to boost the profits of private companies. In particular, the decision to privatise Newcastle Bus and Ferries could see local public transport services in the Hunter region compromised. Furthermore, the new contractor, which is majority-owned by the French Government, will extract a profit dividend from the service, seeing money that should go into better services being sent offshore to benefit the taxpayers of a foreign country.

The idea of paying foreign governments to provide services to local residents in NSW- services that have previously been provided by the NSW Government – does not make sense.

State Transit Authority has a proven track record of running public transport in new South Wales and they could operate the light rail in 2019.

Premier, I urge you to overturn the decision to privatise Newcastle Bus and Ferries and the keep this vital services in public hands.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS PRESTON
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
RTBU TRAM AND BUS DIVISION