



Hi there,

Here's the latest news from Bus Express...

## A message from your team



Today we have taken our fight to the next level. Unless Constance rules out the privatisation of region 6 and further Sydney - **we will strike.**

We are fed up of Constance's threats and attacks on our workers and his complete ignorance for the commuters in Sydney who continue to bear the brunt of his greedy decisions, his repeated lies and

unacceptable planning mistakes.

Our public transport system is being led by an incompetent Minister and the revelations in the last fortnight have further demonstrated that. He has announced that soon he won't have to deal with the Union anymore, because in the future there will be no jobs for bus or train drivers. This is an attack and we are ready to fight.

Read more about our fight below and please continue to talk to your delegates about your concerns.

Chris Preston and Dave Woollams.

## Today- It's time to fight



After continuous attacks and threats by Constance, we've decided enough is enough. For our drivers, and for the commuters in Sydney, it's time to take the fight to the next level. Constance needs to listen to the public and rule out the plans to privatise region 6 and any further sell offs, or else, we will take action.

**Watch today's live announcement from Chris Preston outside Leichhardt Depot on Facebook.**

Constance has gloated about removing all drivers of buses and trains across NSW. The Minister for Transport claims that under his plan, the Government will no longer be in the provision of transport, by selling off all NSW transport services to private companies, and that automation and robots will replace any need for a driver. This is not just an attack on workers, but it is also complete disregard for the public who do not want their public transport sold off to private companies.

The Minister's attack is a disgrace and it's time to fight.

## Andrew Constance, a Minister we cannot trust

Throughout his tenure as NSW Minister for Transport, Andrew Constance has continued to demonstrate that he is incapable of running our transport network. His decisions, which are continuously made without any consultation with the public, continue to fail and backfire on both him and his Government. Constance's leadership has been bungled with lies, secrets and greedy strategies to offset the costs of his mistakes onto commuters and residents.



Last week it was revealed that Constance has been secretly planning to slug Parramatta residents with a \$110 levy to make up for his failure to budget correctly. The \$1.2 billion gap in the funding project for Sydney's new light rail from Westmead through to Carlingford will be dug out of residents' pockets in a sneaky attempt, yet again, to force taxpayers to pay the price of his mistakes.

**Read the ongoing list of Constance's failings on Bus Express.**

## **Constance announces roll out of uber buses, set to fail**

Fixing Sydney's public transport requires a new Minister not 'Uber' buses. The Minister's announcement yesterday that he will begin to roll out on-demand buses is just another example of his reckless decision making.

The Government is throwing \$20 million down the drain into this project which is set to fail, the same way it has in every other city in the world it's been trialled in. Chris Preston says that this system has failed in other places because of 'dead running' where the bus runs empty from one job to another, and every kilometre travelled without passengers onboard adds to the cost. The result of increased 'dead running' will inevitably be exorbitant fares for passengers or excessive subsidies from Government.

## **The next stop!**



We've been warming up our battle in Sydney's Inner-West, but it's about to get bigger and a lot louder. We all know that if the privatisation of region 6 isn't stopped, the rest of Sydney will be next. So now we're heading to Drummoyne, Coogee, Ryde, and - Constance's hometown-Bega, to rally up support from commuters who fear that their buses will be next on Constance's greedy sell-off list. We won't back down in our fight until the privatisation of region 6 is off the table. Keep an eye out for our updates via Bus Express and RTBU for all the events coming up as we take our campaign to the next level.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

## The truth about privatisation in Sydney

By Christopher Knaus – excerpt from The Guardian



“The list of public assets sold off under the current government grows longer in each year of its term. Power and energy infrastructure, buses, the land titles office, superannuation administration and water treatment plants. It’s all helped create a huge \$4.5bn surplus in the last state budget.

Hogan sees the NSW government’s eagerness for privatisation as an example of evidence-based policy making way for ideology. The sell-off of the state’s land titles office stands out.

“The land titles is again a silly one, there’s just no need for it. It will result in higher costs to consumers, which is what they’re usually saying they’re against,” he said.”

The privatisation of NSW’s inner west buses, announced in May, elicits similar

criticisms. The transport minister, Andrew Constance, reasoned the sell-off was needed because inner-west buses drew the most complaints and were the slowest in the state.

Again, the evidence was questionable.

**Continue reading the rest of this article by Christopher Knaus in The Guardian.**

## Putting transport to the test – buses win!

A bicycle organisation decided to put university transport to the test and discover what the fastest way is to get from the Callaghan University campus to the City campus, in Newcastle’s CBD.

Volunteers separately travelled on either the public bus, the university’s shuttle bus, a car or a bike. And, 35 minutes later, for a \$1.80 fare, the bus commuter won!

