

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



EDITION NO. 98 - JULY 2018

RTBU NSW TRAM AND BUS DIVISION



Dear members,

In July we were proud to join with fellow RTBU leaders from around the country to attend the Australian Council of Trade Union's (ACTU) National Congress to discuss our plans to Change the Rules!

Your Bus & Tram Division team once again used the forum to condemn the disgraceful attacks from the NSW Liberal Government on our workforce - particularly with regards to the recent privatisation of Newcastle and Inner West bus networks. Head to our website to read more about the Conference.

This month we also travelled to Canberra to meet our newest light rail members as the new LRV trams prepare to take the tracks. We had the opportunity to inspect the new trams to ensure they are up to scratch for our members, and you can see a shot of the shiny new trams in this edition of Bus Express.

We also heard another Constance fail in the news, with revelations that his 'uber bus scheme' is costing tax payers \$180 per trip, per passenger. What else can we expect to come from this incompetent Minister?

We slammed Constance's uber bus scheme on Sydney radio and spoke to other Sydney media. You can read our Media Release and the stories we organised below.

We trust you'll enjoy this edition of Bus Express. Remember to sign up to our fortnightly emails by emailing [NSWHO@rtbu-nsw.asn.au](mailto:NSWHO@rtbu-nsw.asn.au)

In Solidarity,

Chris Preston & Dave Woollams  
RTBU NSW Bus & Tram Divisional Secretary & President



DIVISIONAL PRESIDENT  
DAVID WOOLLAMS

DIVISIONAL SECRETARY  
CHRIS PRESTON

## RTBU forces ALP to commit to ending privatisation

The RTBU has helped pressure the NSW ALP into ruling out any further privatisation of public assets, including our public transport systems.

Following a strong anti-privatisation campaign by the RTBU in Newcastle and Region 6 and strong lobbying from the union, NSW Opposition leader, Luke Foley, pledged at the party's recent state conference that the ALP will stop the reckless sell-off of public assets, guaranteeing that under a Foley Labor Government there will be:

- No privatisation of NSW hospitals;
- No privatisation of water;
- No more electricity privatisation; and
- No privatisation of public transport services.

RTBU Tram and Bus Division Secretary, Chris Preston - who addressed the recent ALP State Conference, outlining the need for the party to oppose privatisation and detailing the damage current Transport Minister, Andrew Constance, has done to transport in the state - said that securing the commitment from the ALP is a big win, not only for RTBU members, but for public sector employees broadly. Read the full story on the Bus Express website.

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## Your union is here to stay

Some members may have heard recent news about another union raising a dispute over coverage of Transit Systems bus operators.

It's disappointing that the dispute has been raised, but we're confident the issue will be rectified swiftly so we can all get back to doing what we do best - protecting the rights of workers.

To confirm, it is the RTBU's view that the other union in question - the Transport Workers' Union (TWU) - is wrong. The RTBU believes we have coverage of Transit System Bus Operators under our current rules. However, to avoid further disputation, the RTBU is taking steps to amend our rules to make this absolutely clear. This rule change will take some time occur.

On our understanding, there is no real question that the RTBU can cover those persons who were members of the RTBU before the transfer to Transit Systems, and who have continued that membership after the transfer.

The RTBU has a long and proud history of representing Bus Operators across Australia. We have achieved an industry standard of pay and conditions for Bus Operators in NSW. We will continue to protect and fight for the rights of Bus Operators in New South Wales, in both the public and private sector.

If you have any questions about the issue, please don't hesitate to contact the RTBU Bus and Tram Division office on (02) 9319 7277.

# Media Release: Sydney buses running on empty, taxpayer money wasted

July 31

The NSW Government's 'on-demand' buses are proving to be the failure bus drivers warned they would be, with figures revealed in June showing the exact cost to taxpayers: \$180 per passenger, per trip.

Reports in the Sydney Morning Herald further vindicate warnings by the union that Sydney's 'on-demand' buses would be a complete waste of taxpayer money.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union NSW Bus Secretary Chris Preston said the on-demand bus system was destined to fail, and called on the Government to immediately stop the extreme cost to taxpayers.

"This is almost unbelievable that the Government are pushing ahead with a scheme which sees taxpayers fork out \$180 per passenger, per trip," Mr Preston said.

"Minister Constance's pie in the sky 'uber style' bus scheme has also been trialled in Boston, Washington, Kansas and Helsinki and in all cases they have gone broke because the cost and subsidies per rider were simply too high."

"This Government is tipping taxpayers dollars into a scheme that is clearly failing and is destined to go bust, just like it has in every other place it's been trialled This Government clearly have their priorities wrong."

Mr Preston said that the 'Uber bus scheme' had 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. Read the full media release and our news article on the Bus Express website.

## Inspecting Canberra's new trams

On Monday July 30, we were out inspecting Canberra's new trams and chatting to our new drivers ahead of LRV's taking the tracks.

The Government expect drivers to be on the tracks and transporting passengers by the end of the year.

Dave Woollams, RTBU NSW Bus & Tram Division President said "It was fantastic to meet our new drivers in Canberra and to be out on the tracks inspecting the new trams, ensuring they are up to scratch for our members.

"We've already established a solid Greenfields Agreement to cover these new drivers and we look forward to representing a strong and unionised workforce on the Canberra Light Rail."



PICTURED: RTBU NSW BUS & TRAM PRESIDENT, DAVE WOOLLAMS