

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



EDITION NO. 97 - JUNE 2018

RTBU NSW TRAM AND BUS DIVISION



Dear members,

In June we saw another classic case of Andrew Constance trying to woo the public by announcing that there will be funding in the state budget to run an additional 2000 bus services across the state.

This is pure rubbish. We know from history – including very recent history – that this Transport Minister is willing to announce ‘new’ services without mentioning all the services that will be cut in order to allow those supposedly new services to run.

We also know that there’s already currently a shortage of bus drivers in the state, so how he plans to run any new services is unclear. As we told the media after the announcement, this isn’t a case of once bitten twice shy – we’ve been bitten by this Transport Minister more times than you can count.

The announcement seems like yet another attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of commuters rather than a genuine commitment to improving transport.

In Newcastle, Opal data has shown that Constance’s privatisation disaster has seriously impacted the elderly in our community - with seniors’ passenger numbers falling to an alarming low. The bus stops and services which have been removed have hit the most vulnerable people in Newcastle hard- and Constance is to blame. You can read more about it in this edition of Bus Express.

You may have also heard the news in June about the tragic death of a bus driver trainer. Transit Systems was running the driver training at the Fairfield Showground when the trainer was tragically killed. Our thoughts go out to everyone impacted by the incident. While it’s obviously not the RTBU’s coverage area, there’s a real sense of comradery among all transport workers and this news sent shockwaves among the driver community.

**We trust you’ll enjoy this edition of Bus Express.**

In Solidarity,

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

## 2000 new bus services figure is deceptive

Media Release, 19 June 2018

Tram and Bus Division President, Dave Woollams, said the budget announcement that Sydney will get an additional 2000 bus services is a classic case of smoke and mirrors.

“What we’ve seen in the past is that this Transport Minister talks up new services, but fails to mention all the services that he’s cut, or will be cutting, in order to make the new services possible,” Mr Woollams said.

“It’s completely deceptive to say that we’ll get new services when the Transport Minister knows services have been cut and when we know that his privatisation plans will mean even more cuts.

“It’s also missing key details. We already have a severe shortage of bus drivers in this state – how are they going to manage to work all these new services if we don’t have enough drivers to keep the current services running?”

**NSW**  
BUDGET 2017-18

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## Union dues – 2018 fee change

All RTBU Tram and Bus Division members are advised that union dues will increase as of the first full pay period from 1st July 2018. The new rates that will be in effect as of 1st July 2018 are as follows:

Bus & Tram	Fortnightly rate
Full-time bus operator	\$20.7
Part-time bus operator	\$18.3
Casual bus operator	\$16.65
Casual cleaners	\$15.35

  

Rail	Fortnightly rate
Full-time	\$22.85
Part-time/Casual	\$16

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the union office.



# Inner West Courier: Fears over inner west bus shortage, mass cancellations forecast, as privatisation looms

Media Release: by Heather McNab and David Barwell

“A CRITICAL shortage of bus drivers will cause mass service cancellations and pose safety risks to commuters when bus privatisation comes into force in the inner west, a Transport for NSW insider has warned.

Transit Systems, a privately operated bus company, needs to fill 200 positions by the time it takes over the state government's State Transit Authority on July 1, according to the source.

However, the company has denied there is a shortage. A Transport for NSW spokesman also promised: “Transit Systems will be ready to deliver services for customers in the Inner West from 1 July.”

Rail, Train and Bus Union NSW Bus and Tram Division Secretary Chris Preston said since the state government announced Region 6 would be privatised more than 70 workers have transferred out of the region into other areas. Even though existing drivers will be offered 18 month employment guarantees under Transit Systems, Mr Preston said there was “fear” among members about moving from the public to private sector.

“The biggest concern for Transit Systems is that they'll be given a whole lot of drivers who will quit or transfer to other STA regions before July,” Mr Preston said.

“If Transit Systems was to come in with drivers 150 short they would have to contract out the work and in the worst case scenario may have to cancel services.”

[Read the full story on Bus Express](#)

## RTBU – 2018 union elections notice



The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has supplied information regarding the RTBU elections for National and NSW Branch positions for 2018. [Download the information from the AEC here.](#)

Nominations, which must be in writing and comply with the organisation's registered rules, may be made at any time from **9am on Monday 2nd July 2018 and 5pm on Monday 23rd July 2018**. Nominations may be withdrawn up to, but not later than, 5pm on Thursday 2nd August and will not be accepted by the AEC prior to 9.00am of the 2nd of July 2018.

Nomination forms are available from the RTBU office. Members are urged to [read this information](#) and if you require further information, please contact Noopur Madan, Returning Officer with the AEC on (02) 9375 6321 or you may contact the RTBU Tram and Bus Division office on (02) 9319 7277





## Bus drivers skeptical of Minister's new bus services claim

Media release: 8 June 2018

Bus drivers are skeptical about the Transport Minister's claim today that NSW will get 2000 new bus services in the upcoming state budget, saying the claim doesn't take into account all the services that have been cut recently and fails to consider the severe shortage of bus drivers in the state.

RTBU Tram and Bus Division Secretary, Chris Preston, said that while anything to improve commuter journeys is welcomed, the devil is always in the detail.

"What we've seen in the past is that this Transport Minister talks up new services, but fails to mention all the services that he's cut, or will be cutting, in order to make the new services possible," Mr Preston said.

"We already have a severe shortage of bus drivers in this state. How are they going to manage to work all these new services if we don't have enough drivers to keep the current services running?"

"This isn't a case of once bitten twice shy - we've been bitten by this Transport Minister more times than you can count.

"This seems like yet another attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of commuters rather than a genuine commitment to improving transport."

# RTBU Media Release: Privatisation drives most vulnerable off Newcastle's buses

Newcastle's disastrous new bus timetable has forced seniors and pensioners off our public transport, proving that the Transport Minister's claims that privatisation would provide Newcastle residents with a 'world-class transport system' were complete rubbish.

Opal figures released today show that seniors and pensioners have taken significantly fewer trips on Newcastle's bus network, compared with the same time last year.

RTBU Tram and Bus Division Secretary, Chris Preston, said the latest figures highlight what everyone suspected was happening, and are a clear example of the dangers of privatisation.

"The new timetable, and the whole privatisation experiment, has been shambolic to say the least. We've got seniors and pensioners who can't rely on getting a bus anymore. It's just sad," Mr Preston said.

"Our public transport system should work for all commuters, but particularly those who need it most, like seniors and pensioners.

[Read the full media release here.](#)



DIVISIONAL SECRETARY  
CHRIS PRESTON

DIVISIONAL PRESIDENT  
DAVID WOOLLAMS