

VIEW FROM CANBERRA



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Changing times for industry through politics, investment and ride sourcing

If you were ever thinking of attending a BIC Conference, I reckon this is the year. Perth Nov 6-9.

We are seeing unprecedented investment into public transport infrastructure in most states and territories. Unprecedented in the history of the nation.

Just think about Sydney Metro, Badgery's Creek rail link and public transport integration in Western Sydney, the Northern Beaches BRT, Brisbane Cross City Tunnel, Perth Bus Ports and modal integration projects with rail and ferry, Melbourne metro tunnel, ACT light rail and bus network expansion. And there is more.

The federal election saw Turnbull and Shorten compete for the Western Sydney and the cities and public transport policy agenda and votes.

The final fortnight of electioneering saw a stream of announcements from both sides about what they are going to do about cities and improved public transport and transport infrastructure. Do you remember when public transport was a dirty word when it came to the federal government? This federal election has brought a strong focus to the future liveability of our cities and suburbs, addressing congestion, transport accessibility and connectivity in our regions. This can only increase the pressures on state and territory governments as well.

A lot of the announcements have been about public transport rail infrastructure but not all, and at the end of the day it is all good stuff for the future of the bus and coach industry.

The Turnbull government has followed up on its Smart Cities program and announced 2 major initiatives that will make a positive business impact for Industry. The first was a "City Deal" for Western Sydney based around Sydney's second airport at Badgerys Creek. The second was for a \$50 million investment for local governments around Australia to collaborate and invest in innovative technology to improve the liveability of cities and suburbs.

The Western Sydney "City Deal" is between the federal government, state government and Western Sydney local councils and will be the model going forward to manage, through a Ministerial Council, the streamlining of land use, planning and integrated transport processes.

Mr Shorten and ALP have also committed to the future of cities and regions with announcements of their own including \$800 million to Brisbane Cross City Rail, \$400 million to the Western Sydney rail link and \$500 million to the Melbourne Metro Tunnel and a Ride and Share access fund.

It can only be a win - win for public transport and bus. The election result probably strengthens this commitment from the major parties and those who will hold the balance of power. This is a very good reason to get to the BIC Conference and see where your business is heading from federal and state Ministers and senior decision makers and industry leaders.



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And let's not forget the challenges we face as an industry from a changing transport market as ride sourcing and technology see the landscape of personal mobility changing dramatically in front of our very eyes.

A major focus of the BIC Conference this year will be "Public Transport Futures" and the challenges that face Industry in the next few years. These challenges could be no better highlighted than by the joint response from BIC and the Queensland Bus Industry Council to a Queensland Government Taskforce Green Paper on "Personalised Passenger Transport Services".

This Green paper and the Industry response highlights that the encroachment of Uber and other ride sourcing services may, could, will have an impact on existing public transport services and how they are provided. This Qld Government Green paper presents a view that taxis and ride sourcing services could have a future role in delivering what is termed, "first and last mile" trips to connect people to trunk public transport services and late night services using the existing smart card public transport ticketing system.

This is a challenge to how the bus industry has done things in the past but at the same time an opportunity.

BIC Conference 2016, you can't afford not to be there. You can register today by going to www.ozebus.com.au.

Bus Australia Network

