

View from Canberra



11 June 2019

46th Parliament of Australia set to GO

The 46th Federal Parliament is set to go after a very interesting federal election campaign. The general feeling seems to be the Coalition romped it in, but the reality is the Liberals and Nationals only have a one seat majority and a lot of work ahead of them to deliver their agenda.

The election result is as close as it gets really, without being a minority government. The fact most commentators had Bill Shorten as a certainty to be the next PM, (not this little puppy), and the surprise when Mr. Morrison won, created a false *vibe* that the Coalition had a major victory and an unassailable *mandate* to do what they please.

I'm afraid not and whilst the Coalition will rely on a much more reliable cross bench in the Senate than in the last Parliament, they still need to do the work and negotiate their policy and programs through the Senate if they can't get the ALP to support their program up front.

The ministry and shadow ministry have been announced and generally it is all pretty good for the bus and coach industry.

Albo as new Opposition Leader is a real win for Industry after the years of relationship building we have done. He is a hands on polly and will keep a close eye on the transport and infrastructure portfolio that Catherine King has been appointed as Shadow Minister.

The Coalition has pretty much kept the same Ministers in place as far as bus industry issues are concerned, so it is really a matter of building on the work we have been doing in Canberra.

With the BIC Council signing off on the BIC Work Program 2019 – 2022 at the 4 April BIC Council meeting, we are set to hit the road running and continue our strong focus on the federal government being directly involved in public transport and how we *move people* in our cities and regions. This is especially important in a changing mobility world where new vehicle technology, fuel types, and smart transport connectivity could change the face of public transport as we know it.

The BIC National Conference is being held in Canberra November 17-20 for this exact reason and we are returning to the theme of *Moving People > a National Priority* to emphasise the role of the federal government in public transport and the bus and coach industry. The Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Australian Greens have been invited to speak, as has the Minister for Industrial Relations Christian Porter.

We don't hold the conference in Canberra very often, so there is no better time straight after a federal election to attend. I hope we will see you in Canberra to highlight the unity and strength of Industry and our commitment to achieving our national policy objectives.

Mark your diary for November 17-20, a nice part of the year to visit Canberra. Book mark the conference website movingpeople.com.au. Registration will open in July.

