

View from Canberra



21 October 2019

We have a great line up of National leadership attending the BIC conference in the nation's capital this year November 17 to 20.

This is the BIC Number 1 priority in the BIC Work Program to advocate for greater federal government involvement in public transport and the bus industry. The Deputy Prime Minister, Catherine King, Albo's new transport and infrastructure spokesperson, Janet Rice, the Greens transport spokesperson, Scott Buchholz Federal Minister for Road Safety and Chris Steel ACT Minister for Transport and City Services will all provide keynote addresses and outline their policy and plans for our industry.

You couldn't ask for more from the political parties so we need operators and supplies to register and attend the BIC conference and highlight the strength and unity of our industry.

In the first term of federal government, it is an imperative for industry to return to the nation's capital to engage with government on the important *moving people* task undertaken by our industry and to highlight the role of the federal government in our cities and regions in relation to public transport and connectivity.

At the conference, the BIC will be focusing on buses as the core of future transport; bus operators as the "enablers" - connecting the passengers and "providers" - transporting people on a mass transit scale through to providing personal transit options. **And that is why we need you there – because you are the link as the enabler and the future provider working with governments.**

The conference program will look at how you can grow your business and be a part of the future growth of public transport and the role of bus.

We just need to look at future population growth projections and recognise the enormous pressure this will place on our cities and growing regions. The most recent report from Infrastructure Australia, who will also be presenting at the conference, found that increased congestion and population growth pressures mean that public transport and especially bus services will be a key player in ensuring our cities and regions remain competitive, liveable and sustainable.

This is your future – no matter the size of your business.

In our smaller regions and towns, the services will be different but once again at the core will be the local transport providers. Future mobility can't be left to technology or commercial interest. *All* levels of government have a role to play.

For example, governments will need to find the sweet spot between subsidised public transport services and emerging commercial passenger services.

Governments will need to examine subsidy programs for public transport services in our cities.

Governments will need to subsidise the passenger fare to deliver key policy outcomes like congestion management.



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Can you imagine any of our major urban centres without public transport services and the impact of this on congestion?

Of course it is not just about congestion, It is also about economic productivity, social inclusion for the less well off, energy security, improved road safety outcomes. These are just a few of the many benefits of good public transport and why we need to be in Canberra to make sure our federal politicians understand their role.

But we don't just want good public transport. We want great public transport services.

We need all levels of government and all politicians to remember that buses carry more people than light rail and heavy rail services. Buses are the work horse of the public transport sector and critical to mass and social transit service delivery and policy outcomes.

This is the core message that the BIC will be delivering at the conference to the federal government and its role in public transport for our cities and regions of the future. So make sure you are there! Go to movingpeople.com.au.

One thing I can assure you, Canberra in mid-Spring is beautiful. And while the plenary program is one of the best I think we have seen for Industry for awhile, we also have a great day program for partners. This is an unmissable and unique look at the quirky side of Canberra. Hear from Tim the Yowie Man (TYM) and Marg Wade (Canberra Secrets) – both local legends and lovers of Canberra. This is your chance to get an insiders look of Canberra and earn some brownie points from your partner, kids or whoever else you might like to invite to join the program.

If you think you are a champion in leading industry in safety, then make sure you have your nomination in for the National Safety Award. This is a prestigious award initiated by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. Nomination forms online at movingpeople.com.au.

See you in Canberra!

Bus Australia Network

