

# MOVING PEOPLE

➤ *Bus Industry Confederation*

## MOVING PEOPLE, CITIES, REGIONS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT A Federal Election Primer



**BIC**   
Bus Industry Confederation  
moving people



Bus Australia Network



# Moving People, Cities, Regions and the Federal Government

Australians love their cars, and this dependency has created challenges not only in our cities but in regions, towns and villages as our population increases and major regional centres grow.

The productivity, sustainability and liveability of our cities and regions is critical to the health of the Australian economy and the quality of life of Australians.

Public transport in our cities and regions plays a vital role in meeting the mass and social transit needs of the community and deliver important government policy outcomes.

Travelling in cars, especially single use trips provides personal mobility outcomes and personal space and time benefits but this comes with economic, environmental and community costs.

In the context of a fast growing population and increasing urbanisation, congestion is impacting on the economy, reducing our living standards and increasing the cost of living.

At the same time Australia's growing regional centres are entertaining the same transport problems of our growing cities 20 years ago and surrounding towns and villages are challenged with poor transport and mobility options, just as middle and outer suburbs of our cities are today.

All of this adds up to poor economic, environmental and societal performance.

This is the reason why the federal government has a strategic and leadership role to play in our cities and regions future transport choices and public transport.

The delivery of public transport services is the domain of state, territory and in some instances local government.

The federal government has a role to assist state, territory and local governments to deliver national policy outcomes.

There a number of national policy outcomes of better public transport services and improvements.

- > Urban productivity
- > Regional connectivity and decentralisation
- > Environmental improvement
- > Social inclusion
- > Improved personal health outcomes
- > Road safety benefits

It is not rocket science to understand what makes public transport and bus services attract more people to use it.

- > Frequency of services
- > Span of operating hours per day
- > Reliability

It is these three core fundamentals of public transport service delivery that the federal government should focus to assist state, territory and local governments to increase the number of services and patronage on public transport in the city and country and in doing so, reduce the number of individual trips taken by car.

This federal election primer outlines the Bus Industry Confederations ideas on federal policy and programs that will make a difference, be appealing to the electorate and form the foundation of a future Intergovernmental Agreement on Moving People.



## 'Fair Go' Guarantee for Public Transport Users, Drivers and Manufacturers

The bus industry believes in a 'fair go' for all Australians. We believe that good infrastructure, human services and urban and regional policy hold the key to unlocking the enormous potential of our places and people

The federal government has a national strategic policy and program role to address the growing need for better public transport and mobility services in our cities and regions.

This is why we call on the federal government to adopt our 'Fair Go' Guarantee.

This policy delivers a 'fair go' for:

- Australian commuters through guaranteed service levels and fairer fares no matter where they live
- Australian businesses through the prioritisation of the Australian bus manufacturing sector and recognition of public transport as an essential service
- Australian workers through recognising the essential role that bus drivers play in our community.

## The 'Fair Go' Guarantee 10 Point Action Plan

**ACTION 1:** Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on Moving People that will underpin the 'Fair Go' Guarantee.

**ACTION 2:** Introduce a Public Transport Users 'Fair Go' Guarantee based on Minimum Service Levels for Australia's bus networks to bring about a 'turn up and go' public transport paradigm as the centrepiece condition of federal government public transport and road infrastructure funding.

## PT Users - 'Turn Up and Go' Minimum Service Levels

	Weekday Services		Weekend Services	
	Frequency	Span	Frequency	Span
Inner/Middle Metropolitan Suburbs	15 min	5.30am – 10.30pm 17 hours	20 min	6.30am – 10.30pm 16 hours
Interface Suburbs	20 min	6.00am – 10.30pm 16.5 hours	30 min	6.00am – 10.30pm 15.5 hours
Major Regional Centres	30 min	6.00am – 9.30pm 15 hours	45 mins	7.00 am- 9.30pm 14 hours
Regional Areas	30 min	6.00am – 7.30pm 13 hours	60 mins	8.00am – 7.30pm 11 hours



**ACTION 3:** Prioritise improved bus services in Australian cities' outer suburbs as part of City Deals/partnerships and other means where network coverage, service frequency, operating hours and integration with other modes of public transport is poor in comparison to inner/middle suburbs.

**ACTION 4:** Invest in high capacity bus service infrastructure such as bus rapid transit to link population centres with employment and activity clusters to augment other services and fill rail network gaps.

**ACTION 5:** Introduce new and expand existing funding program(s) to improve regional and rural public transport through better integration with existing public transport and other transport services that includes strong tourism infrastructure and service links.

**ACTION 6:** Improve regional connectivity and accessibility through better utilisation of existing regional transport assets and services and the establishment of Regional Accessibility Committees to achieve this.

**ACTION 7:** Provide incentives to states and territories to improve travel to learn and school bus services and provide financial incentives for parents to make school bus travel part of daily travel plans as a key congestion busting strategy.

**ACTION 8:** Provide investment incentives to promote eco - electro bus mobility to renew the Australian bus fleet by retiring Euro 3 and below emission standard buses and replacing with Euro 6 diesel, hybrid or electric buses that includes 'A Fair Go' Guarantee for Australian manufacturers based on Australian content procurement requirements.

**ACTION 9:** Recognise public transport as an 'essential service' under industrial relations laws to minimise disruption to services and introduce 'A Fair Go' Guarantee for bus drivers to recognise bus drivers as essential service workers to improve driver safety.

**ACTION 10:** Exclude special school bus service provision from the NDIS and retain the skilled and mature regulated market that exists.

