

BIC Column October 2014

Firstly a big thank you to all of you who attended the 2014 Australasia Bus and Coach Expo and National Conference as delegates, exhibitors, partners, children and members of the general public.

The event was a resounding success with more than 1000 delegates attending over the four days. This edition of the ABC Magazine features extensive coverage of the Bus and Coach Expo and National Conference.

I hope to see you all in Singapore November 8-11, for the 2015 BIC National Conference. This will be a special event like Fiji 2011 where the Australian bus and coach industry will move offshore for our National Conference to reflect on the state of our industry, and in the case of Singapore, to share knowledge about world's best practice in operating and building public transport systems.

2015 will be a unique event and a unique opportunity for Government and Industry to learn from each other and learn from international experts on how to plan and deliver world class public transport services.

Developing the policy framework for the delivery of these world class public transport systems is an important part of BIC's Moving People advocacy. We were recently on hand at the nationally televised National Press Club Address to see Shadow Minister Albanese announce he has been given the Shadow Cities portfolio in addition to his Shadow Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism roles.

This is a major milestone in achieving a politically neutral approach to how we move people in, and plan and design our cities and growing regional centres.

The BIC received a special mention in Shadow Minister Albanese's speech, where he highlighted the 30 minute city concept raised in recent Moving People publications produced with Professor John Stanley at the University of Sydney:

"I'm particularly attracted to consideration of the 30 minute City concept promoted by some policy thinkers in this area including the Bus Industry Confederation. I am aware that some argue for the 20 minute City, but better to under promise and over deliver. This is the simple concept that most of peoples day to day work, educational, shopping or recreational activities should be located within 30 minutes walking, cycling or public commuting from their homes. The national Government can provide leadership in urban policy in cooperation with other levels of Government, with industry and with the community."

This announcement follows on from a recent Parliamentary Friendship Group for Better Cities event in Parliament House where the BIC highlighted some major challenges for urban policy and solutions to an audience of parliamentarians and key thinkers in the transport and urban policy space.

The Parliamentary Friendship Group for Better Cities draws together ten national organisations focussed on transport, housing and urban design.

In the coming months the BIC will be presenting policies and programs that the Government and Opposition can take into the next Federal election that tackle the challenges of congestion, climate change, land use and transport planning and a growing and ageing population.

As always we will take you the reader and the Australian bus and coach industry with us in this, so keep visiting the Ozebus website www.ozebus.com.au for information and updates on the work that the BIC is doing in Canberra and with all States and Territories.