

# VIEW FROM CANBERRA

January 2016

## What's 2016 got in stall for the Bus Industry

I thought you might be interested in a few of the things that are definitely on the agenda for the BIC in 2016. Many of these issues are managed through Government and/or Industry Committees or directly by the BIC team in the Secretariat.

This is usually done quietly behind the scenes, with no fanfare, often with little understanding by operators and suppliers that these are the types of things BIC does.

These tasks, activities, projects and publications undertaken for Industry, are time consuming and, are as equally important as what many call "the glamorous" aspect of the BIC's role, walking the halls of Parliament House. So here is a quick summary of some key issues and projects that will impact you and support your business over the next 12 months.

### Accessible Transport Standards

The National Accessible Passenger Transport Advisory Council (NAPTAC) has established a Bus Working Group, which is dealing with more than a dozen issues related to the transport of people with disabilities by bus. A key project has involved testing of mobility devices on buses to develop an Australian Standard for mobility devices that will allow them to be labelled as Bus/PT friendly or not, so the driver can recognise which devices can or cannot travel on the bus.

### Review of the Australian Design Rules (Bus)

2016 will see the Strategic Vehicle Safety and Environment Group, (SVSEG), establish a Single Issues Working Group (SIWG) that will review Australian Design Rule (ADR) 58 which relates to vehicle standards for "omnibus for hire and reward." The review will look into the appropriateness of the existing ADR and work to making them easier to understand and interpret. This should result in major improvements for manufacturers and operators to understand the requirements to make a bus compliant to the ADR's and able to be registered to operate.

### Tyre Advisory

Early 2016 will see the next BIC Technical Advisory published for Operators and specifically workshops. The Bus Tyre advisory will provide comprehensive information and guidance on all issues that need to be managed in relation to tyres. Tyre inflations, retreads and maintenance, wheel nut tensions, tyres, axle mass and GVM compliance requirements. You should see this publication around March.

### Axle Mass Limits

2016 should see a national and consistent approach to bus mass limits for all 2 axle buses to operate at 18t with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), to introduce a National Notice for all jurisdictions to adopt. Please be aware that conditions will apply to move to 18t, including ensuring that the right tyres are being used to operate at higher mass limits.

2016 will then see the BIC take up increased mass limits for 3 axle, 4 axle, articulated and double decker buses based on the same principle to move from 16t to 18t for 2 axle buses.

### 4 year review of Passenger Vehicle Transport Award (The Modern Award)

One of the biggest deals for Industry in 2016 will be the 4 year review of Modern Awards, including the Passenger Vehicle Transport Award. APTIA, the Industrial arm of the BIC, led by Ian Macdonald, will be involved in heavy consultation with Industry to agree our national position on the Award and engage the ACTU, TWU and RTBU in the Fair Work Commission.

### Bus Australia Network



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A number of key issues have been presented by the ACTU and AMWU that have the capacity to seriously disrupt the way your business currently operates. This includes looking to change arrangements for casual and part time employment to provide a pathway out of casual employment for long term regular casual employees and improved minimum hours of work for both casual and part time employees. Watch this space.

The BIC will be focussed on a number of other projects in 2016 that I don't have the space to write about in this column. These include:

- The Federal Government Inquiry in Value Capture and Innovative ways to fund future transport infrastructure
- The publication by the BIC of a Paper on National Guidelines and Principles that should underpin the "Procurement of Bus Services" to try and bring some greater certainty to how this occurs when ever Government contracts are up for renewal
- Issues emerging with school bus safety "flashing lights" and advertising impacts
- The introduction of Euro 6 emission standards and the complete review of vehicle emission standards by the Federal Government

So a full year ahead for the BIC and State Associations. Have a good year and remember we are here to help.

### Bus Australia Network

