

VIEW FROM CANBERRA



BIC 2017 - Big Plans

2017 is with us already and the BIC has a big year ahead, so I thought it might be handy to give you a brief overview of the key activities that we will be undertaking over the next 12 months. Activities that we are undertaking on your behalf, operators and suppliers, as part of the BIC work program. Make sure that you have the key dates marked in your diary that BIC would like you to attend to provide support for the BIC and our advocacy efforts around Australia.

The year really starts off with a bang with the National IR Seminar and the National Technical and Suppliers Summit taking place in Canberra on February 28. Details for both events can be downloaded from the BIC website.

These two 1-day events are run every two years and conclude with a joint Industry dinner that involves a large cross section of Federal Members and Senators in attendance.

We have invited the Prime Minister to provide a key note address at the dinner. The dinner is the conclusion of a very good day where we highlight the Industry to all sides of politics and provide politicians and Federal and State authorities an insight into the specific idiosyncrasies of the manufacturing and supply sector and the employment and Industrial Relations realities of our Industry.

Both events serve two purposes, they are informative and provide key educational and operational information to operators and suppliers, and secondly, the events highlight the unity and cohesiveness of the Industry to our decision makers in Canberra.

March 1 is the first of three BIC Council meetings for the year to conclude a few days in Canberra mixing it up with our Federal Parliament.

The BIC Council meetings are a critical part of the BIC secretariat's year. The elected representatives from each State Association, the Bus and Coach Operators Group, the Chassis Group, the Body Group and the Associated Service Providers Group make up the BIC Council. This is a 21 member Council chaired by Wayne Patch.

This is your national decision making body that charts the course of Industry research, policy development and advocacy and provides guidance to the Secretariat to undertake the agreed Industry work program.

The 2nd BIC Council meeting will be held on July 3 at the BAV Maintenance Conference and the third Council meeting and AGM will be held on Sunday 12 November in Hobart at the start of the 2017 BIC National Conference.

The BIC National Conference will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel Hobart from November 12-15, 2017.

It will be an important follow up event and update from the 2016 Conference and the future nature of bus and coach businesses as Governments and others move into the "on demand" transport service space.



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One certainty for the 2017 BIC Conference will be a magnificent Big Arvo Out event on Wednesday 15 November focused around Moorilla Winery and Brewery Estate and MONA, the Museum of Old and New Art, which has become one of the largest tourist attractions in Australia. The Conference being held from Nov 12-15 will also allow for the best opportunity for good weather in Hobart and is planned once again to be a very family orientated event, so start planning with your partner for BIC 2017.

June 16, 2017 will see a first, with BIC and Bus SA hosting a National Land Transport Tourism and Coach Summit and Dinner in Adelaide. This is aimed at providing the Long Distance, Charter and Express sector a specific focus of discussion relevant to the sector.

It is planned to run this every two years, so if you have some ideas and thoughts on topics for discussion at the event this year let me know and watch this space for more detail about this event.

The entire month of July has been set aside for Chairman Wayne Patch and I to undertake our annual "BIC on the Road" briefings in every State and Territory and Federally. This involves us meeting with Ministers, Shadow Ministers, Director Generals and senior bureaucrats, heads of key national organisations such as the NTC, NHVR and Infrastructure Australia, Capital City Lord Mayors and local government representatives to provide a full briefing on key Industry issues and initiatives.

And finally to build on our relationship with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), who played a large role at the 2016 BIC Conference in Perth, we are looking at a possible Study Tour to coincide with the APTA Annual Meeting and Expo to be held in Atlanta Georgia from October 8 to 11, 2017.

So mark your diary and get organised early. I look forward to seeing both operators and suppliers throughout 2017.

Bus Australia Network

