

VIEW FROM CANBERRA



November 2017

BIC Policy and Research leading the way

Anthony Albanese said earlier this year at the BIC Industry dinner in Canberra, and I quote “You guys, I have to admit, were ahead of the game, you were ahead of federal parliament and other industry groups in your focus on the importance of cities and the challenges that Australia faces and the role of the federal government”.

The BIC as part of its advocacy efforts has had a strong focus on research and policy development for over a decade targeted at local, state and federal governments.

The Industry aim - to grow the public transport pie through greater federal and state government funding of infrastructure and services and in doing so grow bus operations and manufacturing and supplier businesses. The BIC goal, to make public transport a key to how we move people in our cities and regions by increasing the number, the quality and frequency of bus services in quality vehicles.

The policy focus of BIC has been to highlight how buses are part of the solution to the challenges that face our cities and regions and to work toward a nation that no longer sees the car as essential and sees other mobility options as a real choice.

In the last few weeks we have seen a significant recognition of the work that BIC has been undertaking that will make a long term difference to every bus business in Australia. This relates to announcements made by the NSW government. Announcements that we will be hearing from all states and territories going forward I believe. Announcements that very much reflect everything BIC has been advocating for over the past decade and better still endorsed by the Federal government.

NSW Minister for Transport Andrew Constance announced on October 22, a 40 year Greater Sydney Transport plan in line with the Sydney City Commission announcing the Greater Sydney Regional Plan and 40 year vision for NSW regional transport.

The integration of transport, land use and planning has been a strong policy focus of BIC in order to look beyond one off infrastructure projects and the next election cycle. The plans provide a vision of creating 30 minute cities and regions connected to jobs, services and housing and public transport plays a central role in this future.

The importance of this cannot be underestimated as it also forms an integral part of the federal government’s City Deals policy that provides incentives, funding and support for state and local governments.

This can only be good for public transport and the bus and coach industry and will be part of the BIC Conference discussion in Hobart.

Bus Australia Network

