

VIEW FROM CANBERRA



January 2018

Industry Representation needed more than ever

One thing is for sure we are all in for a big year. 2018 is a "goer and doer" for operators, suppliers and your industry associations alike. It is going to be busy for one and all as we face change in PT and technology and transport thinking in general. It's up to us to meet the challenges and be key players in an emerging new transit world.

The challenges are multiple as we transit through new ideas about services such as the on demand trials in urban and regional NSW or the NHVR that we hope to see adopt real regulatory control on the road for buses. There still is a way to go but national uniformity is slowly getting there.

Having said that, we are having some interesting times with Controlled Access Buses and getting the road access approval that is required, but we are working through it, especially in New South Wales and Victoria.

Buses over 2.5m wide seems to be a big topic of discussion at the moment. The key issue is the level of road access that is going to be provided by State authorities for over width buses. My read is that general access is highly unlikely (not going to happen) and some kind of controlled access on acceptable road networks might be considered. That is as much certainty as is available at the moment so buyer and supplier beware. Anyway, make your own call and get your own advice before jumping into over width buses.

It should be very soon that we see a national notice to approve all 2 axle buses to operate at 18t across Australia and see a study completed by the NTC to provide the evidence to increase mass limits for 3 axle buses. It has been an effort and taken a long time but I think I can see the finishing line, famous last words.

Last of all, BIC Conference – this year the inaugural Australasia Bus Conference will be held in Cairns on October 7-10, 2018. This a joint event with our NZ Association colleagues so lock in the dates and book your accommodation early. We have a great plenary and information program organised and very special family, networking and social events arranged for a real family event. Accommodation options for the Conference can be accessed at the Moving People C21 Conference website: movingpeople.com.au.

Bus Australia Network

