

## VIEW FROM CANBERRA

October 18 2018

Another year, another BIC Conference and what a turn up we had in Cairns – over 600 delegates (and 140 partners) joined us in sunny North Queensland to discuss future mobility and what it means for bus businesses. It was great to see New Zealanders and Australians come together at what I think were some of the best social events the BIC Conference has run.

We had quite a few first timers at his year’s conference and the feedback has been very positive with most saying they did not realise what the BIC Conference was all about but they were coming back next year.

All in all it was a conference full of great content in the plenary session despite some audio visual glitches that on occasions drove me absolutely batty. It was not up to the usual ‘blue chip’ standard that the BIC team likes to deliver but most people seemed happy enough and at the end of the day you just have to live with that stuff and get on with the show. Having said that, most people’s feedback was that the content of the sessions and quality of the speakers was very good.

The rest of 2018 and 2019 is really going to be about the next Federal election, which seems likely to be held in May 2019.

We had the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack and Anthony Albanese, the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Tourism attend the Conference and it was pretty clear which Party had put some thought into the importance of the bus industry and had developed some serious policy ideas and presented these to the delegates in the room.

Over the next few months I hope to see if we can get the Coalition to better articulate where they are coming from when it comes to buses, public transport and mobility in our cities and regions.

All of the presentations from the conference will be available on the BC website if delegates, or those who could not attend, are interested in the content of the sessions.

Because we have a Federal election next year, there is no better time than now to hold a conference in Canberra. It is important we do return to Canberra on occasion and highlight to the Government of the day, the size, the strength and unity of our industry.

The Conference will take place from November 17 -20, which is late in the year but I might say is probably the peak tourism time for travelers coming to Canberra for the beautiful Spring weather.

Mark you diary and plan for the 2019 BIC Conference now. We have already started planning a great program and social events and some special pre and post conference ideas for those who want to see a little more of Canberra, the South Coast of NSW and the Alpine region in spring to name a few.



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The Industry Census Survey has been extended as we need more responses to make it a worthwhile exercise.

We NEED YOU as Uncle Sam said.

The information will be the foundation of Industry advocacy efforts over the next decade. You can't tell a story without the facts and the detail. This survey is about the Bus and Coach Industry story that we need to tell to all levels of Government and Government agencies.

I urge all bus and coach operators to participate. You do not need to be a member of any Association. All you need is access to a computer and the internet or handheld device/smart phone, to answer some key questions about fleet sizes, services provided and employment arrangements. If you experience problems completing the survey with your device, contact us and we will send you a PDF version to complete.

This is a once in a generation survey, it is not compulsory but it is bloody important that every bus and coach business in Australia participates and takes the time to complete the survey.

If you are a bus and coach operator you can access the survey at <http://ozebus.limequery.com/882137>.

### Bus Australia Network

