

VIEW FROM CANBERRA

April 2019

“Fair Go Guarantee” for the bus industry and PT users – the only game in town

I know I have mentioned this before in my previous column, but I’m going to do it again!

The only game on out there at the moment is the federal election and it is huge and bus related. Public transport, city and regional passenger services, electric buses, new fuels, training and apprenticeships, taxes and jobs are all on our list for the election and if you heard the federal budget and response and the start to the campaign, they are on the political election agenda as priorities for all of the political parties.

So here I am again banging on again about our federal election primer and some ideas about what you can do as an operator and supplier. It is all straight forward and outlined below. Anything you can do will help - you might be surprised about how eager your local federal member and candidates will want to speak with you in the run up to this election.

At the end of March, the BIC launched its federal election campaign for a “fair go guarantee” for:

- Australian commuters through guaranteed service levels and fairer fares no matter where they live
- Australian businesses through the prioritisation of the Australian bus manufacturing sector and recognition of public transport as an essential service
- Australian workers through recognising the essential role that bus drivers play in our community.

Our campaign has been sent to all current sitting federal members and senators in federal parliament.

What you can do.

Step 1. Download the *Federal Election Primer on Moving People, Cities, Regions and the Federal Government*. Go to www.ozebus.com.au/election.

Step 2. Familiarise yourself with the 10 point action plan outlined in the paper. Put them in your own business context.

Step 3. Contact your local federal member in your electorate or senator representing your state to arrange a meeting to discuss your business and your contribution to Australian communities and the *moving people* agenda. Consider arranging a consortium of your colleagues to meet with the relevant federal member or senator.

Step 4. Consider sending the election primer to local media (radio, newspapers, TV) in your areas of operation or location of business.

I call on all operators providing any type of service, be it route, school, charter, tour, long distance in or through an electorate in your locale, and all suppliers and manufacturers to get on board with this campaign. The more voices and the more hammering at the doors of politicians will show the force of our industry and the message we want the polities to hear. Remember, the polly you talk to today could be the one who in fact wins.

By the time this is all over on May 18, the 46th Parliament of Australia will be formed and it will only be a short few months until the BIC National Conference in Canberra November 17 to 20. Whatever the reigning government, we will have ministers, shadow and senior officials in attendance at this year’s conference *Moving People > A National Priority*.

We need our voice, your voice, as an industry to be heard across the political spectrum. Get organised, book your flights and accommodation – deals available online for all travel and accommodation at movingpeople.com.au.

