

BIC Column July 2012

The View from Canberra

As Parliament enters a winter slumber following the carbon tax frenzy the activity at BIC continues apace.

We are gearing up for the Bus Industry National Conference in October, launching our revamped Ozebus.com website and launching a series of publications for the industry including the Incident Management Guide for Bus Operators which I will expand on later in the column.

The Carbon Tax and What it Means for YOU

A price on carbon, effectively a tax on production, was introduced on July 1, 2012. The BIC has issued a series of information updates regarding the carbon tax which are available on the BIC's ozebus website, www.ozebus.com.au.

The most important thing to remember is that heavy vehicle fuels do not incur a tax under current arrangements. This is to be reviewed in 2014 and the BIC has been lobbying to have the bus industry recognised as a "carbon positive" industry.

This means that by carrying out our business the bus industry reduces carbon emissions, by taking cars off the road, and should not be penalised under any introduction of carbon pricing to fuels.

The BIC is developing a Carbon Cost Calculator for the bus industry and we need your input. The Carbon Cost Calculator will keep a track of increased business operation costs in our industry as a result of carbon pricing.

Keeping track of these costs and collating the data will be an important aspect of our lobbying efforts to have revenue raised by carbon pricing invested into our "carbon positive" bus and coach industry.

If you have any input into the Carbon Cost Calculator for the Bus Industry please email or call the BIC.

We will be looking at the key impacts and future challenges presented by carbon pricing at the BIC National Conference in Canberra this year.

BIC National Conference

This month's ABC Magazine contains a copy of the full registration brochure for the 2012 BIC National Conference. Accommodation is filling up fast so I encourage you to book your accommodation and register early to take advantage of the discounts on offer.

This year's Conference will focus on three key areas:

1. A call to action for the Federal Government.
2. A time for us to unify as an industry.
3. A chance to continue the work we started in progressing the industry forward in Fiji.

It's an ambitious program and we need your support to make it a success. I will expand on the sessions for the Conference in next month's column.

Incident Management Guide for Bus Operators

The BIC is working on a number of initiatives that will provide bus and coach businesses with valuable information to assist the industry. We will be rolling them out throughout 2012 and 2013.

We recently launched an Incident Management Guideline for Bus Operators which was developed in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government's Preventative Security Guide which addresses counter-terrorism planning for bus operators.

The Guide provides a step by step approach to developing an Incident Management Plan for your business on:

- how to setup an incident management team with key responsibilities;
- conducting a security risk assessment;
- whole of business procedures for managing security threats and critical road incidents;
- how to deal with media;
- developing incident activity logs and check lists for emergency and professional services contacts ;
- trauma counselling procedures; and
- 1-page "lift-outs" for drivers and operational staff.

If you have not received a copy via BIC or your State Association please contact your State Association or you can download it from the BIC's Ozebus website www.ozebus.com.

Ozebus Facelift

The Ozebus website is a key portal for information about the bus industry for both people within our industry and the general public.

It is also the foundation of all the BIC's marketing activities and contains links to information about the BIC National Conference, BIC Publications and Media, BIC Research.

Ozebus also highlights the activities and services provided by the Australian Public Transport Industrial Association, the industrial arm of the BIC.

We have recently given the Ozebus website a facelift to make information more accessible and to keep the website looking new and vibrant.

Go to www.ozebus.com to check it out.