

BIC COLUMN – April 2013

The dust has settled in Canberra after a hectic last sitting period before the budget is announced.

The leadership spill that never eventuated was subject of whispered conversations and innuendo for weeks leading into the eventual showdown on March 20.

Polls following the “Ruddless Coup”, as it has been named, suggest that rather than securing the Prime Minister, recent dramas have destabilised the Labor party in the eyes of the people that count the most, the Australian electorate.

It is a wait and see proposition over the next few months to determine if the Labor party can recover from this and wage a competitive campaign leading into September 14, the date of the election.

The fallout of Ministers resigning or being sacked did not have a big impact on the BIC’s lobbying position.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Anthony Albanese, retained his portfolio and picked up the additional responsibility of Minister for Regional Development.

This was a positive for the BIC’s Moving People agenda that came out of the mess that was the “Ruddless Coup”

As BIC Chairman Wayne Patch highlighted in his speech at the launch of Moving Australia 2030, Minister Albanese has done more for public transport and cities than any other Minister before him.

The launch of Moving Australia 2030 was a high profile event for the BIC with media coverage in the days leading up to the launch on March 13, significant coverage during the day and following.

Moving Australia 2030 is a report that provides a road map for governments in developing a world class transport network across Australia over the next two decades to 2030.

Minister Albanese, in launching the document at the BIC Annual Dinner in Canberra, described the report as a very practical report which opened up pathways for making significant improvements to the way we do things in Australia.

This was a big project that involved 8 national organisations and 12 months of hard work from the BIC and our strategic partners the Australian Local Government Association, Australasian Railway Association, Cycling Promotion Fund, Heart Foundation, International Association for Public Transport Australia and New Zealand, Planning Institute of Australia and Tourism and Transport Forum.

These are the organisations that formed the Moving People 2030 Taskforce and will continue to work together to promote the Moving People agenda.

Materials from the launch and copies of the report are available at the following link on the BIC's Ozebus website.

<http://ozebus.com.au/solutions-for-moving-people/moving-australia-2030>

The work undertaken in developing this report shows how far the BIC has come in progressing the idea that moving people is an imperative for all levels of government because it is a foundation on which we build our cities, keep our society healthy, improve our environment and provide economic opportunities to all Australians.

The key victory to come out of this joint effort is that many voices saying the same things sends a strong message to policy makers and politicians ahead of the federal election in September and 3 state elections to be held in 2014.

Moving People: Solutions for a Liveable Australia is the theme for this year's Conference and the program will draw on key elements of the Moving Australia 2030 plan and the two Moving People reports the BIC has produced since 2010.

This year's conference will be held from Sunday 27 to Wednesday 30 October.

Details about the conference will be available on the Ozebus website www.ozebus.com.au in the coming months.