

## **BIC Column February 2014**

Things are heating up in Canberra, both in parliament and outside. The hot air from Canberra has to come from somewhere and BIC's research program is the foundation on which we drive industry excellence and lobby federal politicians.

This month's column takes a look at the two arms of our research and policy program and what this means in 2014.

### ***Moving People Driving Excellence***

The theme for this year's inaugural Australasia Bus and Coach Expo at the Gold Coast (September 28 to October 1) is *Moving People Driving Excellence*. By this we mean enhancing the professionalism and standards of our industry. One arm of BIC's research and policy is about Driving Excellence.

In 2014 the BIC is undertaking the Productivity Growth in the Passenger Transport Industry through Best Practice (PGPT) program with the support of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federal Department of Employment.

This program is being delivered throughout 2014 in four stages:

- Stage one is an initiative that will focus on improving the efficiency of business and operations management in the bus industry being jointly undertaken with Pitcher Partners
- Stage two is the development of National Workplace Health and Safety Guidelines for operators
- Stage three of PGPT will focus on the health and wellbeing of bus and coach industry employees through the development of an education campaign and resources kit for the industry.
- Stage four which is already underway is the My Mentor program delivered by Emberin, this is a structured 12 week program to assist women in the bus industry advance their core personal and professional skills, and instigate peer mentoring and networking.

Further details of the PGPT program are available at the Ozebus website [www.ozebus.com.au](http://www.ozebus.com.au).

The BIC is also developing a Bus Fire Mitigation Advisory as a joint project with the New South Wales, Western Australian and Queensland State Governments.

This Advisory will establish a set of agreed industry standard guidelines that can be used by bus operators, regulators, government agencies and suppliers to reduce the risk of fires on buses.

### ***Lobbying and Advocacy***

The second arm of the BIC's research and policy development supports our lobbying efforts in Canberra and our broader advocacy efforts to the community.

The research and policy work we undertake at the BIC, equips us with the ideas and evidence to take the lead on key transport, infrastructure, environmental and social issues related to *Moving People* and our industry.

That the BIC is a key player in these discussions is not by accident, it is something we have strived for since we started in Canberra and something we have achieved through the development of our *Moving People* policies.

2014 will see the release of several important publications including:

- BIC's report on Rapid Transit to Infrastructure Australia which puts forward the case for an objective assessment approach to building both light rail and bus rapid transit systems in Australian cities.
- A compendium of 6 research and policy papers being produced by the BIC and Professor John Stanley from the University of Sydney. These papers will go to key ministers, academics and policy makers throughout Australia and will focus on funding, land use planning and provide solutions on how to ease congestion in our major cities.

All of these publications will be available to the industry at [ozebus.com.au](http://ozebus.com.au) so stay informed.