

VIEW FROM CANBERRA

SINGAPORE 2015 – CONNECTING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Singapore is no doubt recognised as a financial powerhouse and a liveable, vibrant and sustainable mega city of the world.

In its leap from third world to first world status in a single generation, Singapore undoubtedly looked closely at infrastructure, land use planning, population growth and sustainability, and importantly - how its people and neighbourhoods connect. It is no wonder that Singapore's transport solutions is often referred to in reverential world class terms.

Planning and transport are key factors in making Singapore the success story it has become and the reason why the BIC is holding its national conference there from Nov 8-11 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel.

In a world that is now completely global, connected in seconds over the internet, that sees a country's borders becoming less and less relevant, what we can learn from each other is becoming more and more important to remain competitive in our own country and in our own businesses.

Global competition is part of the Australian bus and coach industry whether you are an operator or manufacturer. The same applies to the Australian, State and Territory Governments trying to make the economy more competitive in the global marketplace.

How we move people and plan our cities, regions and transport systems is critical to the economic competitiveness of our country.

How the Bus and Coach Industry does business is important to the Australian economy.

As an Industry we underestimate our contribution to Australia's living standards and economic performance.

Having said that, so do Federal, State and Territory Governments who too often see public transport and the provision of bus services as a cost to the economy rather than the life blood that is keeping it moving.

Singapore recognised the importance of buses and public transport a long time ago and invested in it. It is a public transport driven mega city.

The theme for this year's Conference is "Moving People - Connecting Neighbourhoods".

The focus is on how you make your city or region open for business for every individual within 20 minutes of where they live by walking, cycling or public transport.

This is looking beyond public transport networks, to looking at trunk routes, and then drilling down to the local level and identifying the types of systems and services that we need to make our cities and regions operate as a series of connected 20 minute neighbourhoods.

The Bus is the only real connector at a local level for people to do most of the things they want or need to do, most of the time, within 20 minutes of where they live. This includes local shopping, to connecting to rail services or major bus trunk route services.



The opportunities to grow local bus services and improve the overall public transport network will be a central theme of the BIC Conference and an opportunity for bus operators to understand how they can contribute and grow their business.

Australia can learn a lot from Singapore at the operator level and at the Government level.

I encourage bus operators, suppliers and Government officials to attend the BIC Conference and expand our horizons and identify what we can learn from our Asia Pacific friends.

The program is comprehensive and full of learnings that will benefit bus business and Governments in Australia.

The Conference brochure and program is available at www.ozebus.com.au

Hope to see you there. We have great accommodation rates at the Conference hotel and if you shop around, flights to and from Singapore are competitive with the price for Australian domestic flights.