

BIC Column April 2012

The bus industry has always been the quiet achiever of the public transport family, the workhorse of the transport system in our cities and regions as we call it.

We don't often get recognition for our contribution to moving people in our cities and regions and our contribution to the ongoing discussion about how we deliver better public transport so it was heartening to hear Minister Albanese sing our praises at the annual bus industry dinner in Canberra.

In his speech *Bus Industry – Keeping the Nation Moving*, Minister Albanese said.

“...there is a clear and growing role for the bus industry. Buses are uniquely suited to help ease congestion.”

On the development of the National Heavy Regulator the Minister had this to say.

“The Bus Industry Taskforce has helped enormously throughout this long, arduous process. It has made sure that the interests of bus and coach operators are represented in the development of the law. “

“The taskforce has made it very clear that a once size fits all approach *will not* work—your needs and challenges are distinctly different to heavy freight vehicles...”

“...I understand that network access, fatigue management and industry accreditation remain areas of concern to your industry. You can rest assured these issues will be considered during the development of the second Bill for the Heavy Vehicle National Law over the next couple of months.”

And finally, for those of you who know me as a very shy and retiring and modest type, the work of the BIC was recognised by the Minister.

“Through the Bus Industry Confederation you have a strong and articulate voice representing your interests...”

“...Thank you for your active, energetic involvement in our public life.”

The Minister's full speech is available at the following link:

http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/aa/speeches/2012/AS10_2012.aspx

Good signs for the industry as we head into an election in 2013. We are being heard at the highest levels.

It is now more imperative than ever that we continue to spread the Moving People message and achieve a consensus view among our federal parliamentarians about the role of the Federal Government in public transport.

The formation and announcement of the Moving People 2030 Taskforce is an important part of the BIC's lobbying strategy in the year ahead. The members of the Moving People 2030 Taskforce were announced in front of the Minister and Shadow Minister Truss at the Bus Industry Annual Dinner in Canberra.

Members and Member organisations of the Taskforce are:

- Michael Kilgariff, CEO, Australian Logistics Council
- Adrian Beresford Wylie, CEO, Australian Local Government Association
- Bryan Nye, CEO, Australasian Railway Association
- Michael Apps, Bus Industry Confederation
- Peter Bourke, General Manager, Cycling Promotion Fund
- Dr Lyn Roberts, CEO, National Heart Foundation
- Shauna Jones, National Manager Active Living, Heart Foundation
- Rob Pearce, Executive Director, International Association of Public Transport Australian New Zealand (UITP)
- Kirsty Kelly, CEO, Planning Institute of Australia
- John Lee, Chief Executive, Tourism & Transport Forum

The Moving People 2030 Taskforce will present a full report to the Government later this year which will outline a comprehensive transport plan for active and public transport and freight which can be delivered by Government over a 20 year horizon. The report will also take a view of the transport systems in our capital cities and how these can be improved.

The formation of this taskforce is a timely measure following the release COAG Reform Council's Review of Capital City Strategic Planning Systems. A key recommendation from the advisory panel to the Council was in planning our cities Governments need to put more emphasis on public transport to combat congestion and address social inclusion by integrating transport planning with land use decisions.

Land use and public transport integration, the nature of our cities and where buses fit in as the workhorse of public transport will feature in the plenary program for the 2012 BIC National Conference.

The theme for this year's Conference is ***Moving People: Action Now*** as we take the industry message to Canberra ahead of the next federal election. We need your support in a show of the industry's strength to our federal parliamentarians.

The Conference will run from Sunday 28 to Wednesday 31 October, registrations will open in July. Mark your diaries.