

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## Bus industry ticks all the boxes on safety with a low environmental footprint

The Bus Industry Confederation (BIC), the Australian industry peak body for the safe operation and manufacture of buses and coaches, has released a major industry report on the economic and social benefits of using buses as an alternative travel mode to the car. The report presents a decade of evidence-based data on Australia's bus and coach fleet, its operators, suppliers and passengers.

The Executive Director of BIC, Roz Chivers, says "[the report] provides an important snapshot of the bus industry and our contribution to Australia's economy, social well-being, city liveability and the governments 'green' agenda.

"Australian governments need to recognise that buses are still the number-one public transport provider for workers and students. The bus industry is in fact a top-tier manager of congestion reduction and is a facilitator of economic productivity in our cities and regions", Chivers stated.

The industry report opens with a decade of data on the bus manufacturing and supply sector. The report points to a strong sector that produces on average 1,500 new buses and coaches each year, contributing more than \$6.5 billion to the economy in the building and maintenance of the bus.

The report also shows that the bus industry has always been well ahead of the game in terms of early adoption of technology. As an example, Euro VI emissions standard buses started to trickle into the market as early as 2010 - 27 years ahead of the expected Australian government mandate to do so. Electric buses have been trickling into the market for the last few years.

The report also provides comprehensive data on the passenger commute - the journey to work and the journey to school. Buses will become increasingly more important in their role in providing vital connectivity for the growing number of Australian's choosing to live in regional centres, giving them broader options to access their preferred social and health services, educational and employment hubs.

"There are more than 20 million cars contributing to the congestion in our cities and regions making our roads less safe, less green and less productive", Chivers stated.

"It is evident that governments around Australia are making sweeping commitments and creating buyer incentives for new electric cars in order to reach a net zero outcome at 2040 and 2050."

The BIC contends that the purchase cost of an electric car remains well out of reach of the average Australian household and urges governments to adopt sensible net zero transition plans for public transport so that the bus sector can continue to provide safe and affordable travel options for all Australians.

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## CONTACTS

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Industry report downloadable at [www.movingpeople.com.au](http://www.movingpeople.com.au)