



MEDIA RELEASE

Bus Breakdown Guide to Improve Heavy Vehicle Safety

Embargoed until 9am, Wednesday 30 March 2022

A new Bus Breakdown Guide and accompanying video will provide valuable safety assistance to bus operators across Australia.

BusNSW Executive Director, Matt Threlkeld, said that one of the most common hazards in the bus and coach industry arises from safety risks that result from a roadside bus breakdown.

“While breakdowns can occur in all motor vehicles, the hazards associated with bus breakdowns, where the vehicle is usually carrying public passengers and often schoolchildren, can be significant”, Threlkeld said.

“The aim of the Guide is to address these risks by providing practical guidance for all parties involved with bus breakdowns, specifically operators, bus drivers, maintenance staff and emergency assistance providers”, Threlkeld said.

The BusNSW project to improve road safety was selected as one of twenty-six projects aimed at saving lives and reducing road trauma under Round 5 of the Australian Government’s Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative.

“The funding from the Australian Government and coordination by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator provided a great opportunity for the bus and coach industry to promote road safety”, Threlkeld said.

“The Guide was developed in close consultation with the Bus Industry Confederation and other state bus associations, and involved a committee that included operator representatives”, Threlkeld said.

“We were pleased to have Peter Frazer from Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH) Group write the foreword to the Guide which highlights the importance of road safety and getting everyone home safe”, Threlkeld said.

[National Road Safety Week](#) is an annual initiative created by the SARAH Group and is being held on 15 to 22 May 2022 to highlight the impact of road trauma and ways to reduce it.

Executive Director of the Bus Industry Confederation, Roz Chivers, said the national body was pleased to participate in the development of the Guide as it will complement other national operator guides and provide safety benefits for the industry.

“The bus industry is playing its part to reduce road trauma which is an important objective of the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30”, Chivers said.

“The Guide will be available to all members of the Bus Australia Network, which means it will assist approximately 4,500 bus operators and over 60,000 bus drivers throughout Australia”, Chivers said.

“To complement the release of the Bus Breakdown Guide and the training of staff, the industry will use social media channels to raise community awareness of the hazards associated with a bus breakdown on the roadside”, Chivers said.

Bus and coach operators and other industry stakeholders can access an online version of the Guide and video via a dedicated page on BIC’s [Moving People website](#).

For more information contact Matt Threlkeld on (02) 8839 9500 or mthrelkeld@busnsw.com.au