

## **BIC Column February 2012**

### **A Transit Vision for Australia's Future**

In the course of our lobbying in Canberra the BIC takes a strong focus on building our strategic partnerships and broadening our moving people message beyond a purely transport and modally focussed view of the world.

Since our establishment in Canberra we have worked with groups like the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Australian Local Government Association, Cycling groups, Diabetes Australia, Heart Foundation and many more, and most importantly with the Australasian Railways Association and UITP to make sure the moving people gets a fair hearing in the corridors of Federal Parliament.

2012 marks the year leading in to federal election and with that in mind the BIC is partnering with a range of organisations in developing a Transit Vision Taskforce which will present our vision for Moving People in 2050 to all levels of Government, including Federal Parliament.

This Taskforce and its parameters are currently being established and will be announced in front of Federal Parliamentarians, industry representatives and our strategic partners at the Annual Bus Industry Dinner in Canberra on March 14.

The report of the Taskforce will be launched at the BIC National Conference in Canberra.

The next federal election is why we are holding our Conference in Canberra and by attending you can have your say in the strategy we take into the campaign.

The theme for the 2012 BIC National Conference is ***Moving People – Action Now***, the aim of the Conference is to reinforce BIC's Moving People message to Federal Parliament and ensure public transport and the bus industry stay on the map ahead of the Federal Election.

The Conference runs from Sunday 28 October to Wednesday 31 October. Mark Your Diaries.

Partnership with Government also plays a strong role in getting results for the industry and through the year the BIC will be working with Infrastructure Australia as a member of the Reference Group involved in developing a National Public Transport Strategy.

This National Public Transport Strategy from the Federal Government will represent a landmark in the BIC's lobbying efforts in Canberra and a historic national view and planning approach to passenger transport in Australia and should feed into the recently announced Urban Policy Forum formed by Minister Albanese.

By establishing a framework for how the Federal, State and Local Governments measure the benefits of public transport, fund public transport, and design and plan public transport projects the strategy will not only move us towards a minimum acceptable standard for public transport service delivery, but will also assist our lobbying message that investment in public transport is a no-brainer for any government regardless of who is in charge.

We are also working with Government through the Bus Industry Taskforce in the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, chaired by BIC (me).

The members of this Bus Industry Taskforce are charged with working with the NHVR Project Office to ensure National Heavy Vehicle Legislation does not see buses squeezed into a one size fits all scenario where we are treated like trucks and that bus related issues are clearly differentiated in the development of heavy vehicle regulations.

Members of the Taskforce are:

- Darryl Mellish, BusNSW and Chris Lowe BusVic, representing the State Associations
- BIC Chairman Wayne Patch representing urban route services.
- Tony Hopkins Greyhound, long distance charter and express.
- Stephen Lucas representing regional and school services.

How successful we will be in achieving these objectives given the history of one size fits all legislation in this country is the big challenge, but the industry at least has a forum where we can raise our concerns and we're in it to win it.

Just as importantly the BIC is working within our industry, with State Associations and industry suppliers to follow up on the outcomes of the BIC conference in Fiji.

The outcomes of the Conference are available in the Conference compendium on the homepage of BIC's Ozebus website [www.ozebus.com.au](http://www.ozebus.com.au).