

BusNSW Welcomes NSW Budget Initiatives

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BusNSW welcomes the initiatives announced in the recent NSW Government budget, which includes 3300 more bus services a week.

BusNSW acting Executive Director, Matt Threlkeld said the financing of 446 new and replacement buses across the State is important, but it is the new and expanded services that benefit local communities.

“With population growth, we are seeing demand for seats increasing significantly in pockets of the Greater Sydney metropolitan area, so enhancing services in these areas will help to minimise congestion on Sydney roads,” Threlkeld said.

“The services will need to be supported by bus priority infrastructure that allows buses to navigate through traffic and give customers a reliable and timely experience,” he said.

“It’s critical that residential growth areas in the Hunter, the Illawarra and the Blue Mountains get service levels and intra-regional links that promote the use of public transport over the private car,” Threlkeld said.

“Increasing the frequency of services and hours of operation gives these communities real options when considering a change of transport mode,” he said

“BusNSW looks forward to seeing the service planning detail and where the additional buses will be allocated,” Threlkeld said.

“Updating the bus fleet is also vital to improving customer satisfaction and taking advantage of the safety and environmental benefits that come from new technology,” Threlkeld said.

“The allocation of \$29 million to expand the installation of seatbelts to all rural and regional school buses will further improve school bus safety in regional areas,” he said.

“The additional buses and services create a need for more bus drivers, and private bus operators will be recruiting drivers across the Greater Sydney area,” Threlkeld said.

Motivated and customer focused people looking for work close to home are encouraged to consider becoming a bus driver. For information visit www.busnsw.com.au

“There is also good news for coach operators with \$48 million towards construction of a new underground concourse at Central Station to better connect passengers to trains, buses, light rail and the new Sydney Metro,” Threlkeld said.

“The charter and tourist sector depends on major entertainment, lifestyle, sporting, arts and business events across NSW and BusNSW welcomes the commitment for at least \$95 million to be invested in this area,” he said.

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