



MEDIA RELEASE

BusNSW Supports Seat Belts for Regional School Buses

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NSW Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Andrew Constance, has announced that the installation of seatbelts on the NSW regional bus fleet will be expanded and fast tracked.

BusNSW acting Executive Director, Matt Threlkeld said that the announcement by Minister Constance was an important safety initiative for students travelling to and from school by bus in regional areas of NSW.

BusNSW was part of the *School Bus Safety Community Advisory Committee* that made recommendations to the NSW Government in 2012, and supported for all dedicated regional school routes to have buses with seatbelts.

The NSW Government had originally supported for seatbelts to be progressively installed on almost 1,700 dedicated school services over 10 years, commencing in the 2013/14 financial year, at a cost of around \$208 million.

“Whilst there has been a shift from procuring new buses with seat belts to retrofitting some existing buses with seat belted seats, the industry supports the Minister’s plan to expand and expedite the program” Threlkeld said.

The additional \$29 million announced in the NSW budget is intended to allow all regional school buses to have seatbelts four years ahead of schedule, with the ambitious project scheduled for completion in December 2019.

“The NSW Government’s proposed retrofitting of 1,937 existing buses will mean more than a 1,000 additional buses will have seat belts, which is good news for regional communities,” Threlkeld said.

Approximately 415 buses, which are coming to the end of their life, will be replaced with new buses that have seat belts, in addition to the 515 buses that have already been replaced.

“Any project of this scale will have operational challenges and the successful delivery will require a strong partnership between industry and government,” Threlkeld said.

“We look forward to seeing the detail of the retrofit program and how it integrates with bus contracts and the delivery of services,” he said.

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