

# VIEW FROM CANBERRA

February 2019

Federal Election 2019 – A Fair GO Guarantee

In my last BIC Column I spoke about the fact that public transport will be high on the agenda for the government and opposition for this federal election and this week (February 12) the Prime Minister was making announcements about a massive City Deal for South East Queensland that will be a game changer for public transport to meet the challenges of population growth in one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

As such, the BIC has pulled together a very straight forward 6 point Action plan for the Federal election for the consideration of all of the political parties and candidates and something that you can use if you just happen to come across your local candidates in your electorate or they come knocking on your door.

This federal election provides the opportunity for the next government of Australia to deliver a future “intergovernmental agreement” on *moving people*.

## **2019 FEDERAL ELECTION – A ‘FAIR GO’ GUARANTEE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT USERS, DRIVERS AND MANUFACTURERS**

The bus and coach industry believes in a fair go for all Australians. We don’t believe that the answer to the challenges of population growth can just come through migration policy. We believe that good infrastructure, human services and urban policy hold the key to unlocking the enormous potential of our places and people. As a rising tide can lift all boats so can a federal government policy to address the growing need for better public transport services in our cities and regions.

This is why we call on the federal government to adopt our Fair Go Guarantee. This policy delivers a Fair Go for:

- Australian commuters: through guaranteed service levels and fairer fares
- Australian businesses: through the prioritisation of the Australian bus manufacturing sector
- Australian workers: through recognising the essential role that public transport and bus drivers play in our community.

This Fair Go Guarantee can be delivered through the following actions.

**ACTION 1:** Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on *Moving People* that will underpin the Fair Go Guarantee.

**ACTION 2:** Introduce a Public Transport Users ‘Fair Go’ Guarantee based on Minimum Service Levels for Australia’s bus networks to bring about a “turn up and go” public transport paradigm as the centerpiece of federal government city and regional deals, public transport and road infrastructure funding.

### Bus Australia Network



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	Weekday Services		Weekend Services	
	Frequency	Span	Frequency	Span
Inner/Middle Metropolitan Suburbs	15 min	5.30am – 10.30pm 17 hours	20 min	6.30am – 10.30pm 16 hours
Interface Suburbs	20 min	6.00am – 10.30pm 16.5 hours	30 min	6.00am – 10.30pm 15.5 hours
Major Regional Centres	30 min	6.00am – 9.30pm 15 hours	45 mins	7.00 am- 9.30pm 14 hours
Regional Victoria	30 min	6.00am – 7.30pm 13 hours	60 mins	8.00am – 7.30pm 11 hours

**ACTION 3:** Prioritise improved bus services in Australian cities outer suburbs as part of City Deals/partnerships and other means where network coverage, service frequency, operating hours and integration with other modes of public transport is poor in comparison to inner/middle suburbs. Invest in high capacity bus service infrastructure such as bus rapid transit to link population centres with employment and activity clusters to augment other services and fill rail network gaps.

**ACTION 4:** Introduce or expand existing funding program(s) to improve regional and rural public transport through better integration with existing public transport and other transport services and improve regional connectivity and accessibility, including strong tourism infrastructure and service links.

**ACTION 5:** Provide investment incentives to promote eco - electro bus mobility to renew the Australian bus fleet by retiring Euro 3 and below emission standard buses and replacing with Euro 6 diesel, hybrid or electric buses that includes 'A Fair Go' Guarantee for Australian Manufacturers based on Australian content procurement requirements.

**ACTION 6:** Recognise public transport as an essential service under industrial relations laws to minimise disruption to services and introduce 'A Fair Go' Guarantee for bus drivers to recognise bus drivers as essential service workers to improve driver safety.

## Bus Australia Network

