

## VIEW FROM CANBERRA

September 18

As you must be aware by now a National Census of bus and coach operators is underway. The Bus Australia Network is undertaking a national industry census and is asking all bus operators, big and small to complete the survey.

This is very important for BIC and State Associations to have a good idea of what the Industry looks like today - fleet size, employees, buses and coaches manufactured here or imported. All of these details are critical to explain to Government the important role we play, the value and contribution we make to the economy and our role as a part of the fabric of all Australian communities.

The information will be the foundation of Industry advocacy efforts over the next decade. You can't tell a story without the facts and the detail. This survey is about the Bus and Coach Industry story that we need to tell to all levels of Government and Government agencies.

This industry "census" is not unlike the Australian Population and Housing Census undertaken by every Australian household once every 5 years. A comprehensive bus and coach industry census is well overdue. The last attempt of a national survey of this kind was undertaken in 2003 by the Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies at The University of Sydney. This 2018 Census intends to be a more comprehensive study of where we are at as an Industry.

I urge all bus and coach operators to participate. You do not need to be a member of any Association. All you need is access to a computer and the internet or handheld device/smart phone, to answer some key questions about fleet sizes, services provided and employment arrangements.

It does not matter if you are a 1-bus operator or a 1,000-bus operator. We need everyone to participate. As individual businesses you might feel we are a small industry but as a combined unit of bus and coach operators from around Australia, as chassis and body manufacturers, as fully built bus manufacturers and importers, as air con suppliers and seat manufacturers, insurers, financiers, we are a big Industry. A big industry that pretty much touches every Australian family in some way every day of the year. This is the story we need to tell and this National Industry Census is the tool to let us craft that story.

The BIC has undertaken a separate survey of bus manufacturers and suppliers in the industry. When all surveys are completed, we will be able to provide a clear picture, a snap shot of Industry as a whole. The survey was to close on September 18, 2018 but I have extended the close date a few days to give the stragglers a chance to get the survey completed.

This is a once in a generation survey, it is not compulsory but it is bloody important that every bus and coach business in Australia participates and takes the time to complete the survey.

You do not need to be a member of an Association to complete the survey, we want to get a complete picture of the bus and coach industry.



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I have called this survey an Industry Census because I want operators to take this seriously and make it almost compulsory, in fact it is compulsory if you are serious about the industry you work in.

If you are a bus and coach operator you can access the survey at <http://ozebus.limequery.com/882137>.

## Bus Australia Network

