May 19

BIG politics and BIG Ops will be the focus at the 2019 National Conference

The 2019 BIC Conference is going to be different. BIG politics and BIG Ops are going to feature and as with past conferences, a significant number in the room will be owners and managers, so the conference program will focus on future business and operational realities with hands-on practical stuff for practical people....there will be significant parts of the program that will be relevant to rostering and scheduling.

So for those bus operators out there, any of your staff involved in operations, service delivery and customer satisfaction, will get great value out of the program. Some program sessions include:

- Finding the right people for the future mobility task
- Modern tendering, value adding and navigating your way in a changing mobility service world
- New mobility and city and regional services offerings to meet and grow future demand
- Next gen rostering and scheduling
- The role of the internet of things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) on future bus operations
- The social procurement movement – you can’t ignore it.

This is the year you need to be here. Do not take a year off in the hope to avoid the regional bush setting of Canberra. Remember the politicians representing you, your business, your communities, are in fact a public servant providing a public service (just like buses). It is BIG politics this year so we need to be in Canberra. We will be inviting a number of dignitaries including the people-elect Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the party-elect Leader of the Opposition.


BIC Council – National industry representation reform agenda

The BIC Council met on April 4 and it was agreed that minor amendments to the BIC Constitution were necessary to facilitate a restructuring of representation entitlements on the BIC Council which reflect the changing nature and structure of Industry over the last decade.

Industry has seen massive rationalisation of operators in our cities and regions and this has seen different expectations emerge in relation to how the bus and coach industry is represented by the BIC and State Associations. This in turn has had an impact on how bus manufactures and suppliers market and sell their products.

Constitutional amendments that give effect to changes endorsed by the BIC Council to membership categories, fees and voting rights will be put to the BIC Council in an “out of session” meeting. These proposed changes will allow new BIC membership fee arrangements for State Associations, individual bus companies and government fleets and agencies that wish to be direct members of the BIC to come into effect for the financial year 2019/20.
The Council also agreed that the BIC and State Associations should make a priority of establishing better marketing of Industry through the Bus Australia Network branding as a focal point for future industry representation and unity.

The BIC Council also approved the national work program 2019-2022. It is busy! The work program is extensive and includes detailed strategies for research, policy development, government relations/advocacy, communications, events, IR, etc. The executive overview of the program also provides the current and anticipated challenges, projects and issues for the next 3-4 years.