

Barton Deakin Brief: NSW Government Transport Cluster Update

16 May 2017

Yesterday, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, the Hon Andrew Constance MP announced tenders for Bus Region 6 which services suburbs from the city west to Strathfield and Olympic Park. Additionally, Minister Constance along with Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, the Hon Melinda Pavey MP launched community consultation on the Future Transport Project for rural and regional areas. Today, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) announced they are calling for submissions on pricing for rural and regional bus services.

This brief outlines the NSW Government's recent announcements in the Transport cluster including tenders for Bus Region 6, IPART submissions for rural and regional bus services and the Future Transport Project.

Tenders for Bus Region 6

Bus Region 6 services suburbs from the city west to Strathfield and Olympic Park. Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, the Hon Andrew Constance MP has announced this service would be competitively tendered.

The Government has stated that State Transit lags industry competitors in measures such as on-time running and reliability. Private operators have been offered to compete and re-apply for contracts every 5 to 10 years and will have their contracts renewed if they meet high performance standards.

The Government will continue to own Region 6 buses and assets, including depots, and will continue to set Opal fares and timetables, and regulate safety and operational standards.

Sydney Buses will continue to operate Regions 7, 8 and 9 which includes the inner metropolitan areas of the eastern, and southern and northern suburbs, including the CBD.

The Minister has stated that consultation has commenced with staff and their union representatives and will continue to do this through the transition to private operation.

The tender will begin in July 2017 and is expected to be completed by July 2018.

Minister's Media Release, [here](#).

Future Transport Project

[Future Transport](#) partners with Government departments and industry to ascertain the future of transport in NSW. Feedback collected will be drafted into the Future Transport Strategy released in late 2017.



Yesterday, Minister Constance and Minister Pavey launched community consultation on the Future Transport project to listen to the priorities of rural and regional areas. This community consultation will assist with the NSW Government's pipeline of projects in rural and regional NSW including the Pacific Highway and Great Western Highway upgrades, the Fixing Country Rail Programme and the new intercity regional train fleet.

Feedback will be sought from 15 May until 30 June, 2017.

Minister's media release, [here](#).

Future Transport strategy website, [here](#).

Future Transport regional challenges, [here](#).

Future Transport Technology Roadmap 2016, [here](#).

Request for IPART feedback on Bus Service Prices

Today the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Authority Tribunal (IPART) called for feedback from residents of New England, Murray-Murrumbidgee region, Illawarra region, Central West and Far Western NSW, the Hunter, Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers regions and Southern region about rural and regional bus services.

IPART will provide advice to the NSW Government on the development of on-demand services in rural and regional areas of NSW. IPART has also released an Issues Paper identifying key issues for stakeholder [input](#).

IPART is investigating how fares should be set for the services provided, how these fares and the costs of providing them related to those for similar services in metropolitan areas, and how services might be improved to better meet passenger demands.

The review will also consider ways to address using bus services across borders including concession fares and different eligibility criteria between states.

The costs of providing these services will be a key factor for IPART's review, along with an assessment of how bus fares for journeys of different distances should vary.

Local residents, community groups and transport providers have until 29 June to make submissions to IPART on the proposed approach to the Review of rural and regional bus fares from 1 January 2018.

To make a submission, click [here](#).

Online survey available [here](#).

For more information, please contact [Andrew Humpherson](#) on +61 419 241 587 or [Jessica Yu](#) on +61 2 9191 7888.

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