



## **WAYNE PATCH SPEAKING NOTES**

### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

**2018 Australasia Bus Conference**

**MONDAY 8 OCTOBER**

**840AM**

**Good morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to lovely Far North Qld. We have over 700 registrations for the conference this year here in Cairns which shows the high level of interest in the BIC agenda across the nation and extending this year across the Tasman.**

**A very special welcome to our NZ colleagues and in particular, welcome to Alistair McDermott the BCANZ President who with Barry Kidd your Executive Director and a few other NZ board members instigated this joint event at a meeting we held a few years ago in Auckland.**

**I am sure you will enjoy the Conference sessions, social events and North Queensland generally, so welcome to all our Kiwi friends.**

**For those of you who can remember that far back I started as BIC Chairman in 2011 on the kava mat in Fiji with the local village Chief. During that whole time Steve Heanes from Iveco has been my trusted Vice Chairman.**

**Both Steve and I were re elected yesterday at the AGM for the 8<sup>th</sup> time. Whilst there is no constitutional limit on how long BIC councilors can hold office the fact that even Presidents of the United States have a maximum tenure of 8 years would dictate that it's time for a change.**

**Accordingly, if all things go to plan I intend that this will be my last year as Chairman of the BIC.**

**Yesterday's AGM also elected the new BIC Council who will represent operators and suppliers for the next 12 months. They make an important contribution to our Industry and take timeout of their own busy business schedules to support Industry through BIC.**

**If I could ask them to stand as I announce the BIC Council beginning with the operators.**

**Representing the State Associations**

**NSW – Steve Scott, Peter Ferris and John King**

**Victoria – Sam Lucas, Rob Wright and Ashley McHarry**

**Queensland – Tony Gear and myself**

**South Australia – Ben Romanowski**

**Western Australia – Dennis Sutton**

**Tasmania - Shane Dewsbury**

**Representing the Bus Operators group**

**Frank Oliveri**

**Representing the Chassis group**

**Steve Heanes Iveco and Vice Chairman of BIC as I mentioned, Julian Gurney, Scania and Kevin Fielding, Hino**

**Representing the Body group**



**Peter Dale, Marco Polo/Volgren, Anthony Roder Bustech and Anthony Fisicaro King Long**

**Representing the Associated Service Providers**

**James Lowe – McConnell Seats**

**Jamie Dunlop - Thermoking Bus Australia and**

**Geoff Stewart - Multispares**

**Thank you Gentleman. Congratulations on your election and I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.**

**The conference I referred to in Fiji in 2011 was a watershed event and focused heavily on how industry representation needed to refocus to meet the changing landscape in technological advancement, structural changes in service procurement and delivery as well as the changing makeup of Australia’s operator group.**

**As predicted during our deliberations a lot of change has occurred in our industry since then.**

**How we operate services has changed. The overall number of bus operators has reduced but the size of the operator’s businesses are larger. We have more national and multi- national companies and this whole ‘disruption’ phenomena is challenging our business strategies and established service delivery models with new ideas about mobility.**

**We predicted all of those eventualities in Fiji so there were actually few developments that we didn’t anticipate. But even though we were forewarned were we forearmed?**

**I think it's important to occasionally look back in order to look forward and see where we are heading from an Industry perspective.**

**One thing is certain. The research, policy development and advocacy work of the BIC has seen a Federal Government move from one of the few western developed economies to be not directly involved in public transport to having both major political parties and the Greens adopting portfolios and policies that have seen the injection of billions of dollars into public transport infrastructure.**

**More money has been invested into public transport in the last 5 years, than since Federation in 1901, and in my view BIC has been a key player and influencer in Canberra and in all of the States and Territories.**

**This fundamental change in policy thinking is a significant change and as Albo has said on a number of occasions, "BIC was ahead of the game on the need for federal government involvement in our cities and public transport". The former Federal Minister for Cities Paul Fletcher has also publicly stated and written to the BIC about the important contribution we have made to the national debate.**

**This BIC research, policy development and advocacy is also highly relevant to state, territory and local governments.**

**Never before seen levels of investment in public transport infrastructure by the Federal Government in our cities and regions has seen state and territory governments investing in new services and increased number and frequency of services. It is not a coincidence that four of the seven state and territory government transport agencies are members of the BIC and our relationship with the rest is also very good.**

**The national nature of transport law (NHVR and NTC) and IR (APTIA) has seen the BIC lead Industry and coordinate the Industry management of the many issues that impact our business every day.**

**A current example that sees Industry facing a massive challenge to the way we do business is in the IR sphere with the recent decision in Skene V's Workpac in the Federal Court regarding the employment of casuals that could have massive impacts on our whole business and I know Ian Macdonald will bring you up to speed on the massive impact a change to the laws about casual employment could have. APTIA is coordinating the national industry response.**

**I have said it before and I will repeat it again, as I travel each year with Michael to visit Ministers and Shadow Ministers, Directors General, senior agency officials and Lord Mayors in every State and Territory, and that is BIC is held in high esteem and has a widely recognized reputation as a thought leader in the public transport and mobility space.**

**Regardless of whether you are a bus operator, manufacturer or supplier 2017/18 has seen "disruptive technology" rubber hit the road.**

**Trials of on demand, first and last mile, point to point services are taking place across Australia and autonomous vehicles are being trialed, albeit in a limited way, but autonomy is a reality that will quickly grow over time.**

**These developments will mean a change to how we do business. It is already changing but because we are part of it, it is hard to see**

**the revolution in transport services to a mobility as a service world that is occurring.**

**This will mean a change to how we do things in cities and how we do it in regions, towns and villages. The one certainty is that technology will play a key role in how we connect individuals to a transport service no matter if it is large mass transit people movement or low volume markets.**

**Some argue that these on demand services are not new, they are old hat that has all been tried before, "tele bus "and so on. The difference this time is the technology that is available and the capacity for Big Data to be collected, analyzed and used to connect an individual to a service(s) and take payment in a seamless way from a single device. Big Data is allowing transport 'enablers' to connect actual demand to a mobility service.**

**Transport disruption at its core is about changing the traditional public transport paradigm that is based on latent demand and set pick up points and times to connecting services to actual demand and, if you believe the pundits, at a lower per kilometer per passenger price. No wonder Governments are interested.**

**Mass transit will be a cornerstone of future mobility, feeder services integrated into trunk routes will be reality. Whilst their various forms are yet to be decided and will obviously vary based on a range of factors, mass transit will undoubtedly be the spine of future mobility in all highly populated areas.**

**Shared mobility has to be the mantra of all Governments in the future. Roads and single use cars have had their day if we are serious about keeping our cities and growing regional centers productive and livable.**

**Car ownership and reduced trips by car will be the policy focus of governments in the future supported by the provision of shared mobility options that will make the car in the future 'non-essential'.**

**Whilst this might sound familiar to you it is not something you've read in a George Orwell novel. It actually reflects BIC policy and advocacy over the last decade. Our industry representation is keeping it 'real' with governments and I hope this year's Conference program and sessions keeps it real for your business.**

**Sure, business models and contractual arrangements, commercial and subsidised services may change but at the core will be the transport provider who delivers the product.**

**On either end of this transaction is an individual and a vehicle connected by an 'enabler'.**

**BIC advocacy is about ensuring that bus operators and suppliers have the entrepreneurial opportunity to be service provider, to be enabler, to be both, for all the same reasons we have advocated over the last decade.**

**Passenger transport services have to deliver more than just a mobility outcome, they have to deliver other Government policy objectives as well - economic growth, congestion management, improved environmental outcomes, social inclusion, energy security, improved road safety and health outcomes for example.**

**The same applies for future mobility. Our industry will be a key player in the mix, in our cities and the country. That is why industry representation is more important than ever over the next decade to ensure our businesses take a lead in future mobility.**

To conclude I will return to Fiji.

2011 in Fiji at the BIC Conference was also a watershed year for those who remember because it started a discussion about future industry representation and what the rationalisation of operators in our major cities would mean for State Associations and BIC membership.

The Bus Australia Network made up of the BIC and State Associations has been a great initiative to send a united industry message to all levels of government, but disappointingly not all have been as forthcoming with support for this important initiative in a time a changing industry most needs it.

Now is the time for greater unity, co-operation and the most effective use of limited industry representation resources.

Every operator has a role to keep BIC and State Associations focused on the end game and work together to achieve it.

My final year as Chairman of BIC is going to have a strong focus on this aspect of Industry representation and I look forward to your support through your State Association and BIC membership.

This year's Conference program is a good mix of business and educational sessions and social activities.

It is great to have our Kiwi friends joining us in Cairns and we all look forward to sharing our common and different experiences over the next few days.

I would now like to introduce a video message from the Hon Phil Twyford the NZ Transport Minister who unfortunately, at the last minute, was not able to join us in Cairns.

**Michael and I had a very productive meeting with Phil in Auckland recently and it was evident from our discussions that he has a genuine enthusiasm for his portfolio and a keen interest on best practice trends in the public transport and planning sector.**

## **PLAY VIDEO**

**I would now like to invite to the stage the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and our Transport, Infrastructure and Regional Development Minister the Hon Michael McCormack.**

**Michael has been a long term friend of BIC and has attended many of our functions and forums over the years before transport was ever part of his official portfolio.**

**We have a solid relationship with Michael and his office and I am looking forward to working with him on transport policy matters in the lead up to next year's Federal election.**

**It's a long way from Canberra to Cairns and we very much appreciate your time in making the effort to be with us today.**

**Ladies and gentlemen the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia the Hon Michael McCormack.**