

YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear BIC Members,

We are delighted to bring you the latest updates on our advocacy efforts, technical advice and industry support, jobs and skills initiatives, as well as our engagement activities. Here's a roundup of some highlights from the past 12 months.



Advocacy

1. Suppliers in Crisis Campaign: BIC has spearheaded this campaign to address hyperinflation, supply chain issues, contractual challenges, and skill shortages impacting suppliers. We have been actively engaging with government to seek support in resolving these critical issues.

2. Reform of Heavy Vehicle National Law: We successfully influenced the recommendations for the reform of the Heavy Vehicle National Law. This ensures that the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers consider the requirements of bus and coach operators and suppliers during the development of the new law and regulations, scheduled for late 2024.

3. Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport: Championed pragmatic and practical solutions that meet the needs of disabled communities without imposing unnecessary costs on the industry.

4. RVSA Implementation Issues: We have been actively resolving numerous implementation issues related to the Road Vehicle Standards Act (RVSA). This includes expediting urgent or overdue applications, improving guidance materials, prioritizing changes to the ROVER system, and making changes to administrative rules.

5. Transition to Zero Emission Vehicles: Called for the government to develop a policy and regulatory framework for the transition to zero-emission vehicles. As a result, there has been accelerated work to allow for adoption of ADR 109/00 - Electric Power Train Safety Requirements and ADR 110/00 - Hydrogen-Fueled Vehicle Safety Related Performance in 2023.

6. Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan: We successfully advocated for the Australian Government to fund the development of this roadmap and action plan. Funding of \$7.8 million over four years was included in the Federal Budget.

7. Collaboration with QBIC: Collaborated with QBIC on a detailed response to the Queensland Government's review of the Electrical Safety Act, strongly advocating for upskilling of existing industry personnel.

8. AVAS Review: We advocated for the industry during the recent federal review of the Acoustic Vehicle Alert System (AVAS) on vehicles.

9. Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Bill: APTIA appeared before the Senate Select Committee to advocate for industry responses to the proposed changes to enterprise bargaining.

10. Enterprise Agreement Bargaining Advisory Group (EABAG): APTIA was invited by the President of the Fair Work Commission to become a member of the EABAG, contributing to the development of new bargaining processes and principles.

Technical Advice and Industry Support

1. National Technical Manager: We have appointed a permanent full-time National Technical Manager to provide technical and regulatory information to members and negotiate sensible regulations, standards, and laws.

2. Transition to Low and Zero Emission Buses and Coaches: Developed the first in a series of advisories to support this transition. The first advisory on Standards and Specification is due in early July, with advisories on safe operations and maintenance, as well as depots and infrastructure, currently in development.

3. ADRs and Standards: We have worked closely with the government on the introduction of five new ADRs, including brakes, Euro VI emission, advanced emergency braking, electric powertrain safety, and hydrogen-fueled vehicle safety. Additionally, we have established a collaborative relationship with TfNSW to contribute to the development of electrical standards.

4. Increased Width and Axle Mass Allowances: BIC has advocated for increased width and axle mass allowances for next-generation zero-emissions buses and coaches, aiming to facilitate their efficient operations.

5. Local Content Project: We have scoped a detailed project to develop a standardised definition and calculation methodology for local content, ensuring consistency across the states and territories. This project covers the entire supply chain of the bus industry.

6. Recruitment and Retention Project: APTIA initiated a project to improve the image of public transport and encourage bus driving as a career pathway. This project involves consultants funded by a special voluntary levy set by APTIA Council.

7. IR Training: At the request of members, APTIA provides IR training through online or onsite presentations.

Jobs & Skills

1. Rule Changes for Aged Pensioners: Successfully lobbied the Australian Government to pilot changes to rules for aged pensioners, allowing them to earn more before their pension is reduced. This initiative aims to retain and attract bus drivers.

2. Inclusion of Bus Drivers on Skilled Occupation List: We successfully promoted the inclusion of bus drivers on the eligible skilled occupation list.

3. Focus on Engineering, Technical Services, and Manufacturing: Addressed the significant skills issues impacting the industry, leading to a focus on these areas during the consultation on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

4. Training for Electric and Hydrogen Vehicles: We have been working with various TAFEs and higher education providers to facilitate relevant training programs supporting the rollout of electric and hydrogen vehicles.



Engagement

- 1. National Industry Summit:** In March 2023, we hosted the National Industry Summit in Canberra, bringing together over 200 delegates.
- 2. Social Media and Networking:** We have grown our LinkedIn followers to over 1000 and actively engage with the BIC website to keep our members informed and connected.
- 3. Meetings and Council:** We have hosted multiple Suppliers Group Meetings, Operators Group Meetings, Technical, Safety, and Environment Committee Meetings, Zero Emission Bus Committee Meetings, and BIC Council meetings, providing platforms for interaction and collaboration.
- 4. E-bulletins:** Our monthly e-bulletins serve as a valuable resource, delivering industry news and updates directly to our members.
- 5. Collaboration with Government Agencies:** We hold quarterly meetings with the Heavy Vehicle National Regulator, the National Transport Commission, and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts to resolve industry issues and make progress on important matters.
- 6. Ministerial Engagements:** Actively advocating for the industry at the Ministerial Transport Roundtable for Jobs and Skills and the AMWU Industry Manufacturing Roundtable with the Federal Government.
- 7. Relationships with Government:** We maintain strong relationships with Ministers, Shadow Ministers, and Senior Bureaucrats in the Australian, state, and territory governments.
- 8. Representation and Assistance:** APTIA provides fee-for-service representation to its members, offering support in matters related to State Industrial Commissions, the Fair Work Commission, and the Federal Courts. We have also assisted with enterprise agreement bargaining for members.
- 9. Delivered the National Industry Conference in Brisbane in November 2022 with over 400 delegates, 30+ presentations and 3 major social events.**

Strengthening the Bus and Coach Industry Together

At the Bus Industry Confederation (BIC), we firmly believe that the unity and collaboration among businesses in the bus and coach industry set us apart from others. As a valued member of the BIC, your business becomes an integral part of our collective effort to amplify our voice and make a significant impact on governments and the wider community.

Our overarching vision is to enhance the sustainability and livability of Australia's cities and regions through the seamless movement of people using bus and coach transportation. We are dedicated to achieving this vision by representing the collective interests of our esteemed members and providing unwavering support in promoting the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of bus and coach transport across Australia.

We value the input and engagement of our esteemed BIC members, and we encourage you to reach out to us at any time. Your feedback, questions, and ideas are vital to our mission of promoting the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of bus and coach transport in Australia.

Please don't hesitate to contact us via phone, email, or through our website. Together, we can continue to shape the future of the bus and coach industry.

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