

21 September 2022

██████████
Committee Manager
Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
transportinfrastructure@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear ██████████

BusNSW would like to thank the Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into Emission Free Modes of Public Transport.

When appearing before the committee on 19 August 2022, Mrs Melinda Pavey asked the following question.

Could I put a series of questions to the bus and coach association and to Michael Timms? We had evidence earlier today from some bus and coach manufacturers around the panel 4 and some changes within panel 4. There seemed to be a view that we now have standards that have not been created in any consultation with industry, and they are way above any standard throughout the world. Have you had any consultation, or do you have any views on this issue, Matt, John or Michael?

In response, I advised that *"There has been some fairly minimal consultation in regard to the fire mitigation requirements associated with the specifications for bus panel 4, which we understand will be going through a request-for-tender process in the coming weeks or months with the intent for that new generation of bus panel to commence sometime next year. I am not sure that we can provide you with any detail at this point in time, but I am more than happy to take that on notice should you require any particular details around those requirements that Transport for NSW have indicated"*.

In response to the question on notice, BusNSW can confirm that it was not consulted in relation to standards and the actual Bus Specification documents to apply for the Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Bus Procurement Panel Number 4. As a result, BusNSW is not aware of any changes being made to the Bus Procurement Panel Number 3 specifications for the following bus types, which are currently available on the TfNSW website.

- 14.5 CAB
- Double Deck Bus
- One Door Urban Bus
- School Bus Cat 3
- School Bus Cat 4
- Two Door City Bus
- Zero Emission Bus

Whilst BusNSW is unsure if directly related to Bus Procurement Panel Number 4, the TfNSW Asset Management Branch provided BusNSW with an update, in draft form, of a key asset standard covering Bus Materials Fire Performance Requirements, for feedback in March 2022. BusNSW understands that TfNSW was seeking for buses to comply with a European Standard (EN 45545) for fire protection measures for railway vehicles.

The Bus Industry Confederation (BIC) made a submission to TfNSW on this draft proposed Standard. Following a survey of bus suppliers, BIC concluded that although individual parts of a bus can comply to EN 45545, (for example components such as destination signage and seat upholstery) none of the bus suppliers were able to provide a bus that was compliant to the proposed requirements as written.

The BIC and BusNSW will always support improvements in bus safety, but it was considered that the adoption of EN 45545 for all componentry on the bus is not only impractical but could also create a range of potential and unwanted compliance and WHS effects. Responses from bus suppliers also indicated significant increases in cost and lead-times as well as tare mass increases should EN 45545 be adopted.

BusNSW received separate advice from the TfNSW Asset Management Branch in April 2022 regarding the Environmental Conditions for Fleet Assets, though this included several modes. The purpose was to ensure that the fleet assets intended for operation in NSW are designed and manufactured to perform effectively in the environmental conditions that prevail across the geographical areas of the networks on which TfNSW operates the fleet assets. BusNSW understands that this was not directly related to bus specifications for Bus Procurement Panel Number 4.

The fire performance requirements are only a small part of the entire bus specifications, and as outlined above, we are unsure if this feedback request was related to Bus Procurement Panel Number 4. If so, this was the only consultation that has occurred with BusNSW in relation to standards and the next generation of bus procurement panel.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry.

Should you require any further information, please contact me on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Matt Threlkeld.

Matt Threlkeld
Executive Director