



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **FRANCHISING SET TO BRING BUS SERVICES INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia congratulates the NSW Government's decision today to heed our long-held call to franchise bus services in Sydney's remaining regions.

"The NSW Government's smart decision to competitively tender bus services continues this Government's modernisation of Sydney's transport system," said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Chief Executive Adrian Dwyer.

"Franchising the operation of transport services is a tried and tested way to drive value for taxpayers and deliver better outcomes for customers.

"A competitive tender of all Sydney metropolitan bus contracts will deliver major savings for reinvestment in Sydney's growing transport network.

"The NSW Government should be congratulated for using this important reform to bring Sydney's ageing diesel buses into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a whole new electric fleet.

"Franchising is not privatisation and it's unhelpful and inaccurate to conflate the two when the NSW Government will continue to own State Transit assets.

"Opening up the operation of the bus services to competitive tender is not about selling assets, it's about delivering better services to customers.

"Customers don't care about who drives their bus, they care that it's clean and on-time so they can get to work or home to their kids.

"Bus and train customers right around the country are already enjoying the benefits of having the best private providers from around the world operating their service and it's great news that NSW bus customers will enjoy them too.

"Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Infrastructure Australia, and many others have consistently recommended that state and territory governments pursue the franchising of their bus and train services and it's good to see that NSW has listened," Mr Dwyer said.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation's leading infrastructure think tank, providing independent policy research focused on excellence in social and economic infrastructure.

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