

13 June 2023

**Mr John Lee**  
**Chair – Bus Industry Taskforce**

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Re: Further Terms of Reference on bus safety

Dear Mr Lee,

Following the tragic bus incident in the Hunter Valley over the weekend, write to expand the Terms of Reference for the NSW Bus Industry Taskforce and now ask that you examine the adequacy of certain safety and regulatory arrangements of bus operations in NSW.

Specifically, I ask the Taskforce to examine the following matters and advise me on:

- the adequacy and completeness of retrofitting seat belts on school buses in regional NSW in the past decade, and whether fitting seatbelts on buses should be expanded to other areas. This should also consider whether changes are required to Australian Design Rules for buses and coaches, and matters relating to the enforcement of wearing seatbelts;
- whether bus operators are actively managing, monitoring and implementing their safety management systems, including driver training and fatigue management, as well as the adequacy of regulatory oversight by Transport for NSW; and
- whether any gaps or duplication in risk management of bus safety exist between the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, Transport for NSW and bus operators.

To assist in this task, I will expand the Taskforce by appointing Darren Lane as a new permanent member to provide independent advice on bus safety and operations and assist in the preparation of any recommendations that you make. Mr Lane has more than 20 years of experience in assisting major Australian organisations in government and the private sector improve safety systems. I have enclosed a copy of Mr Lane's CV for your information. He will be supported as part of the Taskforce by additional resourcing from Transport for NSW.

I request that you and the Taskforce team provide me with an overview of any early findings in relation to the retrofitting of seat belts on school buses and any other immediate recommendations obtained through investigations by 31 July 2023. Once received, your recommendations will be

brought for consideration by Cabinet. Any subsequent findings should be included within the agreed reporting schedule of the Taskforce set out in the Terms of Reference.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Haylen MP  
Minister for Transport