



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

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BUSES: THEY'RE ELECTRIC!

Improved air quality and reduced noise pollution are just some of the benefits to come as electric buses become part of the state's public transport network. The Legislative Assembly's Committee on Transport and Infrastructure has released its report on electric buses in regional and metropolitan public transport networks.

The Committee looked at the benefits of electric buses and the challenges limiting their wider uptake across the public transport fleet. "Electric buses will improve our cities, towns and suburbs through better air quality and quieter streets and also provide financial savings over their operational life", said Committee Chair, Robyn Preston MP, Member for Hawkesbury.

"The health benefits of the transition from diesel to electric vehicles could also lead to lower health costs". In its report the Committee recommended that Transport for NSW develop a transition plan to ensure the successful transition to electric buses. The plan should focus on how buses will be charged, their procurement and contracts with bus operators.

"Detailed planning will identify what charging infrastructure is best and what bus depot upgrades are needed. Setting out contract arrangements will give bus operators the certainty they need to invest in new depot infrastructure and vehicles".

The Committee also recommended that electric buses be fitted with noise emitters. "The quietness of electric buses is a major benefit but it poses a safety risk for pedestrians and passengers with disability needs. Using an alert or noise emitter will help ensure people hear the bus when it's nearby and avoid the risk of injury".

"We hope the report's recommendations will ensure that the transition to electric buses is a smooth ride". The report is available on the Committee's website <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2563#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>

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