

BIC Column January 2012

Amongst other things, Canberra is famous for being one of the last places in Australia where you can still buy fireworks.

It's back to work for us at the BIC after all the festivities and pyrotechnics displays of the holiday season, but we expect some fireworks in Federal Parliament in 2012, the year leading up to the Federal election.

Will the Prime Minister be able to keep her detractors at bay and keep the top job going into the next election?

Will the Opposition Leader be able to overcome the impression that he is all "tip and no iceberg" and hold onto the election winning lead the Coalition are showing in the polls?

Will the fragile coalition between the independents and the minority Labor Government survive another 12 months in the pressure cooker of public opinion?

These are all intriguing questions and in some part will shape the focus of BIC's lobbying in 2012.

In developing our Moving People Strategy the BIC has provided a sound policy base for all political persuasions to base their infrastructure policies on and achieving a consensus amongst Federal political parties about the need for world class public transport in our cities and regions.

One of the keys to achieving our goals is getting our story straight on an industry wide level and to that end the outcomes from the 2011 BIC Conference will play a crucial part in developing our industry voice and lobbying messages.

The BIC National Conference Compendium takes a look at the program sessions, what was discussed at the conference and a proposed way forward to address future industry representation.

Key issues addressed in the compendium include:

- How the funding of representative activities through events, sponsorship and membership would work in the future.
- Getting the structure of our representation right to establish consistent and uniform policy across the industry to all levels of government so that we minimise duplication of effort and initiatives and make the best use of our resources.

The Compendium is online at BIC's Ozebus website, www.ozebus.com.au.

I encourage you all to look at the Compendium.

With that in mind the BIC is working on a lobbying strategy and YOU have a part to play in delivering it at a local level.

The BIC Federal election campaign for the election will take a focus on:

- Getting support for Federal Government involvement in passenger transport from all sides of politics.
- The importance of the bus industry and local bus operations for the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the community.
- The impact of the imposition of a carbon tax on the bus industry and why we should be exempt from this.
- More money for road based public transport and bus passenger infrastructure under the Federal Government's investment program in passenger transport.

The next federal election is why we are holding our Conference in Canberra and by attending you can have your say in the strategy we take into the campaign.

The theme for the 2012 BIC National Conference is ***Moving People – Action Now***, the aim of the Conference is to reinforce BIC's Moving People message to Federal Parliament and ensure public transport and the bus industry stay on the map ahead of the Federal Election.

The Conference runs from Sunday 28 October to Wednesday 31 October. Mark Your Diaries.