

Ozebus Update

AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT COUNCIL MEETING

The last meeting of the Australian Transport Council in Canberra signed off on a "New Beginning for Transport" based on the National Transport Policy Framework developed by the National Transport Commission.

In a press statement following the meeting the Federal Minister for Transport said the Commonwealth was willing to "work with the States to relieve urban congestion and improve public transport".

The Minister's statements were echoed by the PM Kevin Rudd in his appearance on the first episode of the ABC program Q & A. In response to a question on sustainable transport the PM committed the Government to moving people and the provision of sustainable transport options.

FUEL PRICE DEBATE

With fuel prices soaring to unprecedented levels we've seen both major parties trying to out bid each other to find the "silver bullet" for keeping fuel prices low.

The Coalition called for a 5 cents per litre reduction in the fuel excise, while the Government has announced it will consider scrapping the GST on fuel excise across the board, a saving of approximately 4 cents per litre.

How such a measure might affect the revenue available through the GST has not yet been measured, but the idea will be investigated as part of the Rudd Government's review of the taxation review, which will report at the end of 2009.

To have your say on fuel prices and how they will affect your business click <http://www.ozebus.com.au/OzeBusForum>.

2008 FEDERAL BUDGET: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

There were encouraging signs for public transport in the inaugural Rudd budget, with indications that the new Government is looking for avenues to play a hand in public transport planning and promotion, and public transport infrastructure development.

The BIC will continue to communicate the industry's key messages regarding the need for Federal Government involvement in public transport, and work with the Government to provide public transport solutions for the problems of climate change, urban congestion and social exclusion.

The full budget report is available at <http://www.ozebus.com.au/ozebus/img/Budget.pdf>.

CAPITALCORP FOOTYTIPPING: SUPPORTING THE INDUSTRY

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