



STAFF BULLETIN No. 2

17/2/93

The process of providing Victorians with a reliable, clean, efficient public transport service is underway.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT REFORM PROGRAM

An agreement between the Government and the Tramways Union has been reached which will allow public transport reforms in the tramway area to be implemented smoothly and co-operatively. This agreement was overwhelmingly endorsed by ATMOEA members employed by the PTC on Thursday 4 February and has been ratified by the Federal Executive of the Union. The document was signed and took effect on Monday 15 February.

MAJOR POINTS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE:

Fare collection

- * The introduction of automated fare collection over an 18 month period commencing mid-1993 and the phasing out of tram conductors in line with the introduction of this equipment. Trams will be modified to ensure safe and efficient driver only operation. Security cameras will be installed on B Class trams while modifications will be made to W Class trams.

Workshop Maintenance

- * Endorsement of initiatives regarding rolling stock maintenance as identified by the INDEC Management Consultant report.

Line closure

- * Closure of the Northcote-Thornbury tram line. No other lines will be closed during the term of the agreement.

Infrastructure

- * Competitive tendering for tram track construction and maintenance .

Levels of service

- * An adequate level of service to meet demand will be maintained. For approved special events such as major sporting fixtures, Royal Melbourne Show etc, an increased level of service will be provided.

Retention of tram services

- * Services on eight routes (West Coburg, Kew-St Kilda, Camberwell, West Maribyrnong, East Malvern, Wattle Park, North Richmond-Prahran/St Kilda) to remain as tram services with immediate implementation of driver only operation after 8pm on weekdays and at weekends. These services will be operated by modern trams which can operate without modification. These vehicles, when not linked to Automatic Vehicle Monitoring, will be equipped with two-way radios. Additional training for drivers will be provided.

- * The Footscray-Moonee Ponds service has been converted to driver only operation. It will operate until 8pm (Mondays to Thursdays) and until 10pm on Fridays. Existing Saturday services will be maintained with driver-only.

Tendering for Government bus services

- * The PTC will be allowed to tender for the operation of these services. The Corporation and the Union have agreed to jointly identify and review all potential workplace reforms and cost savings to enable the PTC to submit a commercially viable tender.

Term of the Agreement

- * The agreement ends on 15 February, 1997.

OTHER PASSENGER SERVICE INITIATIVES

Rail Passenger Services

- * Talks between the Government and the rail unions are being held. The Government has given an undertaking that tenders for country rail services will not be let before 1 March and there will be no advertisements for bus substitution of metropolitan rail services prior to 1 March.

All night buses

- * Routes have been selected and tenders closed on 20 January. Evaluation is proceeding.

City Met Shop

* Strong interest has been shown. Expressions of interest closed on Wednesday 27 January. Evaluation is proceeding.

Tourist Tram

* Again strong interest shown. Expressions of interest closed on Monday 1 February. Evaluation is proceeding.

Automatic Fare Collection

* Tender document is being finalised.

Driver only operations

* Bids have been sought for modification of suburban train driver cabs.

OTHER REFORMS

Rolling Stock Maintenance

* Consultation on rolling stock maintenance reforms is continuing at all levels through the Joint Implementation Sub-committee and at workshops and running sheds. The transfer of off-train components to dedicated component workshops is continuing with further work transfers from Jolimont to Spotswood and Ballarat. All reform activities are currently advancing to schedule.

Infrastructure Management

* Service contracts between the Infrastructure Management Division and users regarding the managements of assets is progressing. Expressions of interest closed today for skills readily available external to the Corporation in the general building and maintenance area. Consultation is continuing via the Joint Implementation Sub-committee process and in other forums.

Cleaning Services

* Rolling stock/stations - Expressions of interest have closed with 27 submissions received. Evaluation is proceeding.

* General - Expressions of interest have closed with 23 submissions received. Evaluation is proceeding.

Trading and Catering

* Expressions of interest have closed. There has been a good response.

Passenger security

- * Improvements in passenger security are proceeding.

Information Technology Outsourcing

- * Expressions of interest close on 1 April, 1993. Consultation with staff has been established through a representative group.

Internal Audit

- * Expressions of interest have closed. A Joint Implementation Sub-committee meeting was held on 20 January with ARPOA the only union to attend.

Rail Freight

- * A presentation was made to unions on the freight service initiatives. A document detailing the initiatives was distributed to unions.

CONSULTATION

To implement the reforms, six consultative management/union joint implementation sub-committees have been set up under the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

The committees are:

Corporate - information technology, internal audit and general cleaning (Convenor Phill Wade). **Infrastructure** - construction and maintenance (Convenor Phillip Johns). **Tram and Bus operations** - automatic ticketing, service changes, bus contracting, cleaning (trams & depots) and passenger security (Convenor Norman Walker). **Freight Operations** - review of all services (Convenor Marinus Van Onselen). **Passenger Rail Operations** - automatic ticketing, driver only suburban trains, service changes, trading & catering, cleaning (trains & stations) and passenger security (Convenor Norman Walker). **Workshops/Running Sheds** - rolling stock maintenance (Convenor John Barry).

ARBITRATION COMMISSION HEARING

Unions applied to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission for insertion of provisions for consultation into PTC Awards.

The Commission accepted the PTC submission that when definite decisions have been made to introduce major change, employees who may be affected by the proposed changes and their unions are notified and the effects the changes are likely to have on the employees shall be discussed. Matters raised by employees and/or their unions in relation to the changes shall be given prompt consideration.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

As part of the on-going management restructure the positions of Executive Director, Director Human Resources & Industrial Relations and Manager Corporate Affairs have been declared surplus.

The following Managers will report directly to the Chief Executive:

- * Manager Emergency Management (Daryl Byrne)
- * Manager Industrial Relations (John Boardman)
- * Manager Workhealth (Dr Jane Greacen)
- * Manager Training (Colin Oates)
- * Manager Personnel Services (Bill Franzke)

Further updates on the reform progress will be provided in future Staff Bulletins.



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