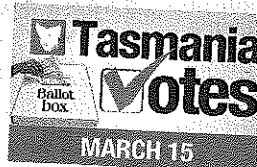


STATE ELECTION

Policies lacking on public transport



Georgie Burgess



THE Tasmanian Bus Association says it is disappointed it has not yet heard a passenger transport policy from Labor or the Greens.

Tasmanian Bus Association general manager Geoff Lewis said the association had written to all parties to determine their positions regarding the state's passenger transport system so they could advise members before the election.

Mr Lewis said public transport was an important election issue, with the Tasmanian bus industry operating 1000 buses, and the private bus industry servicing more than 500 contracts and moving 30,000 students a day.

Mr Lewis welcomed a response from the Liberals, and said it recognised the industry provided an essential service.

"It also recognises that the Tasmanian bus and coach industry plays a critical role in

ensuring the future sustainability of the state's land-based transport system," he said.

Mr Lewis said the Liberals had also committed to a five-year plus five-year contract for incumbent operators when the New Service Contract ends in 2018.

"This is a vital commitment that provides the industry with certainty," Mr Lewis said.

A spokesman for Labor said the party would work with Metro and local government to introduce every-10-minute services in Launceston.

"Labor has several election policies to better connect communities to the things that matter, such as work, study, services, and each other," the spokesman said.

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