



## ABOUT US

Bus Association Victoria Inc. (BusVic) is the voluntary professional association for bus and coach operators and industry suppliers in Victoria. BusVic's primary role is to represent the best interests of members in respect of their relationship with Government and its Agencies including contract negotiation, industrial relations, legislative and regulatory compliance, and safety. BusVic also delivers a suite of products and services to the industry including the Charter and Tour sector that add value to member operators' businesses.

BusVic also extensively and strategically invests in research and development on procurement, social, economic, environmental, governance and safety factors on behalf of a 'community of interest', a collective of like-minded family businesses that mostly form the Victorian bus and coach industry. BusVic is owned and controlled by its members, and it applies 'co-op' principles and values in its day-to-day operation.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For the information of new and prospective members the following is a summary of some of the products and services offered by BusVic.

## ASSOCIATION RULES

The Association's Rules (or Constitution) are available from BusVic's website. Membership of BusVic is available to bus operators accredited or exempt from accreditation under the Bus Safety Act 2009.

BusVic works through an Operators Committee consisting of representatives from metropolitan Melbourne, regional and rural Victoria and charter/tour operators, special purpose subcommittees and a Board. The purpose of each of these groups is to raise the level of professional and ethical behaviour of each sector and deal with matters unique to that sector. The Board ratifies the overall strategic direction of BusVic as developed and delivered via its Executive annually.

## VISION

To ensure the perpetual resilience and relevance of Victoria's bus and coach operators.

## MISSION

- To represent our members' best interests to Government in forging the world's best public transport culture.
- Work in partnership with Government and stakeholders for the increased use of buses and Public Transport as part of the development of more sustainable transport systems.
- Advocate the cost effectiveness and demand responsive capability of buses and how this capability benefits social inclusion, public health, energy conservation and urban congestion.

## SERVICES TO MEMBERS

The following services, facilities and concessions are available to members:

- Develop and execute government contract renewal strategies.
- BusVic's staff will act on behalf of members in all dealings with the Department of Transport and Planning, the Department of Education, V/Line, VicRoads, Safe Transport Victoria (comprising what used to be known as both Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria and Transport Safety Victoria) and other agencies and Government departments as required to comply with regulations. This includes:
  - the submission to DTP and DE of claims for increases in contract rates due to replacement of vehicles, additional mileage, fluctuations in operating cost, etc.
  - assisting members with the interpretation of Government/bus operator contracts and information, advice and assistance with enquiries about bus operator and driver accreditation matters.
  - working with DTP and operators to enable accurate fare, patronage and fare compliance recording and reporting, and providing input to DTP on marketing strategies to improve patronage and revenue growth.
  - assisting members with school bus centre reviews.
  - reviewing and responding to strategic transport and land use planning and policy initiatives.
  - liaising with State, Local and Federal Government regulatory authorities in relation to development proposals potentially impacting on the operation of members' services.
  - engagement with government agencies regarding emergency management issues.
  - advocating for improved operating conditions and access including bus parking specifically for Tour, Charter and Express operations with: Parks Victoria; Tourism Victoria; Melbourne Cricket Club and local governments; Melbourne Airport and destinations of interest for bus and coach passengers.
  - development of a charter costing worksheet to assist with pricing decisions when quoting on a charter; available from the BusVic website.
- Information is sent regularly to members associated with the employment of staff in the transport industry, including changes to wages and amendments to the Passenger Vehicle Transportation Award 2020.
- Information and initial assistance with industrial relations matters, and access to Australian Passenger Transport Industrial Association for more detailed matters.
- The development of industry Enterprise Agreement templates.
- BusVic developed and helps members maintain a **Bus Operator Accreditation Help Kit** consisting of guidance/training notes and template fill-the gaps forms for the Management Information System (MIS) and Maintenance Management System (MMS) as required and overseen by Safe Transport Victoria (STV). Updates are distributed by email as necessary in response to government regulatory changes. One workshop of up to 5 hours assistance at BusVic Port Melbourne is included for new members to clarify and assist with completing the templates for STV bus accreditation application submission.
- A monthly **Members Bulletin** is issued containing items of importance and interest to members. This is the major communication between BusVic and members. Between Bulletins, regular updates and news bulletins are also emailed to operators as required.

- BusVic maintains a members' website providing industry, management and operational information, with an online booking system for BusVic events.
- Member-only webinars on key topics, e.g., changing laws and regulations; employment relations. Typically 40 minutes including Q&A; delivered on Zoom, and recorded for later viewing on the BusVic website.
- BusVic runs a **Maintenance Conference and Trade Show** every few years. The conference covers developments in maintenance, safety, policy and technological developments. The Expo is historically the largest gathering of bus and coach owners and their staff in Asia/Pacific.
- Annual **Regional Conferences** are held in regional areas throughout the State to allow country members the opportunity to participate in the Association's affairs, network with other members and to engage with our supplier Partners.
- Full use of the Association's administrative offices is open to members to utilise on their behalf in negotiations with various public authorities, unions, and other organisations with which they normally come in contact.
- The Association has arranged a special insurance package for private bus operators who are members. This is an extremely attractive arrangement through **SURA Bus & Coach Australia**.
- Finance for new vehicles and other purposes has been arranged at very attractive interest rates, particularly for smaller operators. **BusFinance Australia** has developed a secure relationship with financiers which will give you some protection if things go wrong during any stage of the lease or hire purchase term.
- **Bus Parts Plus** is owned by BusVic but operated on BusVic's behalf by CMV Truck and Bus. CMV carries a large range of consumable spare parts and in addition handles a variety of other parts and accessories, particulars of which are set out in catalogues and price lists issued from time to time. Through bulk buying, CMV is able to purchase at special rates, the benefits from which are passed on to members.
- Efficient, cost-effective annual bus inspections by **Road Safety Inspections Pty Ltd**. The Company employs only experienced bus testers with an average of 15 years involvement in this type of work. State of the art equipment and technology assists the inspectors in carrying out the most professional inspections of your vehicles throughout the State.
- **AutoYou** is a BusVic subsidiary which operates in the wholesale car care industry. It sells premium internal and external care protection products, dash-cams, tinting and scratch and dent products to car dealers and detailers. BusVic members receive special discounts and incentives for purchasing products from AutoYou.
- **Urban Transit Solutions** is a transport scheduling consultancy which is 51% owned by an entity of BusVic and 49% by an international public transport operator.
- **ACM Bullbars** is a BusVic owned business which manufactures alloy bullbars and bumpers for trucks and buses. BusVic members receive special discounts.

## OUR HISTORY

Victoria's private bus operators have long understood the need to work together to improve industry conditions and the level of service provide to their passengers.

The Bus Association Victoria Inc. began as part of a combined goods and passenger organisation formed in 1944 as a result of a merger of the Master Carriers' Association of Victoria and the Commercial Motor Users' Association.

The new organisation called the Victorian Road Transport Association comprised three passenger operator divisions: the Road Passenger Service Operators (long distance and country operators), Omnibus Operators (metropolitan and suburban) and Motor Coach Services (charter and tours).

Within three years however the Road Passenger Service Operators division believed that the needs of passenger operators were "so entirely different from those of the vast majority of the members of the VRTA...that separate action became necessary". Separate action meant the creation of a new association and an umbrella body, which ultimately led, in 1953 to the Road Passenger Service Operators Association becoming the sole representative body for bus owners throughout Victoria.

In 1969 the name of the association was changed to the Bus Proprietors' Association (Vic) (BPA) and changed again in 1996 to Bus Association Victoria Inc.

The abbreviated name BusVic was adopted in 2007.