



Media Release

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CONNEX PURCHASES BRISBANE BUS BUSINESS

Connex has signed an agreement with National Express Group to purchase its Brisbane-based, National Bus Company Queensland.

Connex's decision to purchase NB Queensland is consistent with its strategy to expand in the Australasian region where it has recently commenced as the operator of Auckland's passenger rail network and an expanded Melbourne passenger train network.

NB Queensland operates route, school bus and charter services in the Cleveland – Redland Bay area, south-east of Brisbane, under contract to the Queensland Government.

"This sale only concerns a change in ownership of the shares in NB Queensland," said CGA Chairman Bob Annells. "It will be business as usual for all employees and for anyone using our bus services."

Mr Annells said his company was delighted with the purchase given its healthy prospects due to the various TransLink initiatives and the expected population growth in the area serviced by the company.

"NB Queensland is efficient, well managed and plays an integral role in the public transport network in Brisbane.

"There will be no change to bus services and we will be taking on all existing employee contracts, entitlements and terms and conditions as part of the sale agreement.

"We look forward to welcoming NB Queensland employees into the Connex Group," he said.

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CONNEX GROUP AUSTRALIA Pty Ltd, ACN: 079 303 816

Media contact: Mark Paterson +613 9610 2611; +61 412 212 862

Connex Group Australia is the largest private provider of passenger transport in Australasia. Established in 1997, it manages commuter rail networks in Melbourne and Auckland; a bus network, the monorail and lightrail in Sydney; and a bus company in Noumea. With the inclusion of NB Queensland and Southern Coast Transit, the company provides more than 170 million passenger journeys per annum serviced by more than 3,600 employees.

Connex is the transport division of Veolia Environnement, the world's largest environmental services company. Connex works in partnership with more than 5,000 local authorities and industrial clients in more than 20 countries in Europe, the Middle East, North and South America, Asia and Australasia. It has more than 56,000 employees, operates more than 28,000 vehicles and carries more than 1.5 billion passengers. Connex's turnover in 2003 was €3.7 billion.

