



Media Release

3 September 2004

CONNEX PURCHASES SOUTHERN COAST TRANSIT IN PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Connex has signed an agreement with National Express Group to purchase Southern Coast Transit, its Perth bus company. The sale has received State Government support which recognises the sale is a commercial arrangement.

Connex's decision to purchase Southern Coast Transit 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.

Southern Coast Transit operates bus services in the Fremantle, Rockingham and Mandurah regions, as well as the central business district's CAT service. The services are operated under contract to the state government's Public Transport Authority.

"This sale only concerns a change in ownership of the shares in Southern Coast Transit," 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 the healthy prospects that exist for the business which operates in an area characterised by strong population growth.

"Southern Coast Transit is efficient, well managed and plays an integral role in Perth's public transport network."

"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 Southern Coast Transit employees into the Connex Group," he said.

- ends -

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 Southern Coast Transit and NB Queensland, 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.

