



Media Release

22 March 2004

CONNEX AWARDED AUCKLAND PASSENGER RAIL CONTRACT

The Chairman of Connex Group Australia, Mr Bob Annells today welcomed the Auckland Regional Council's decision to award Connex the contract to run the suburban passenger rail services in the Auckland region of New Zealand from July 2004.

"Obviously we're proud to have been chosen and very satisfied that the contract has now been signed," said Mr Annells. Connex was nominated as preferred tenderer in November 2003.

"We're pleased that the ARC has recognised that Connex, as its partner in this important endeavour, has unique experience and proven capabilities in managing change and improving suburban rail systems in many parts of the world.

"It is encouraging that there are plans to invest significant funds to improve the overall system within the Auckland region. The combination of Connex's operational expertise coupled with this investment will guarantee a better service for Auckland commuters.

"The ARC has made it quite clear it wants Connex to ensure delivery of more reliable and frequent train services, grow patronage and deliver a safe and secure passenger experience.

"Our challenge is to turn that vision into reality and we will deliver this via improved maintenance arrangements; optimising rolling stock to enable us to operate a more robust timetable; and by better communication with our customers when there are difficulties, thereby enabling them to make informed choices about their travel," Mr Annells said.

Connex will operate this contract via its New Zealand subsidiary, Connex Auckland Limited and will be responsible for train and customer services. Mr Chris White is the General Manager of Connex Auckland Limited.

Headquartered in France, Connex, the transport division of Veolia Environnement, is a leading provider of public transport services, including suburban rail networks, and is working in partnership with more than 5,000 public authorities and private companies in more than 20 countries worldwide.

In 2002 it carried approximately 1.4 billion passengers on its trains, rapid transit, monorail, ferries, buses and taxi services, spread through many cities in Europe, the Middle East, North America, South America, Asia and Australia.

Connex Group Australia (CGA) was established in Australia in 1997, and operates commuter rail services in Melbourne; a bus network, the monorail and the lightrail in Sydney; and buses in Noumea, New Caledonia. With its recently expanded Melbourne train contract and the Auckland contract now in place, CGA operations will be responsible for more than 150 million passenger journeys a year, serviced by more than 3,100 staff in the Pacific region.

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