



**For immediate release**

**26 November 2003**

## **CONNEX SELECTED AS PREFERRED TENDERER IN AUCKLAND**

Connex was today selected as the preferred tenderer to run the suburban rail services in the Auckland region of New Zealand.

"Obviously, we're delighted to have been chosen as preferred tenderer by the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) for this important contract," said Gérard Golay, the Managing Director of Connex Group Australia.

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

"The ARC has made it quite clear it wants to significantly improve services and increase patronage in Auckland. Should we ultimately be awarded the contract, our challenge will be to turn that vision into reality and we have identified areas where improvements and enhancements can be made progressively," Mr Golay said.

He said the company was looking forward to working with the ARC to finalise the contract arrangements over the coming months.

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.

Last year 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 would operate this contract via its New Zealand subsidiary, Connex Trains Auckland.

Connex Group Australia 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.

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