

Connex Reaches Agreement With Victorian Government

Connex announced today that it had reached an interim agreement with the Victorian Government which stabilises its Melbourne metropolitan train franchise.

"For the past year, Connex has been negotiating with the Government to enhance the current financial viability and operational effectiveness of its Melbourne business. The negotiations have been undertaken in a cooperative spirit with the interests of our staff and commuters paramount. Connex has worked hard with the Government and our combined efforts have borne fruit today," said Gerard Golay, Managing Director of Connex Group Australia.

"Connex is confident that this is a significant step towards securing its business in Melbourne for the long term. To this end Connex will continue to work with the Government as it determines the long term structure of public transport in Victoria be that via a direct negotiation or a tender process."



"Our customers can be confident that they will continue to receive world class transport services with new and refurbished vehicles and improved infrastructure. The Connex staff can also be confident that their future is secured and I want to pay tribute to their dedication and loyalty over what has been a trying time," Mr Golay said.

In return for Connex's agreement to provide the Government with a right to tender its business next year, Connex will receive additional support to enable it to continue to provide its current services (which represent a 10% increase compared to 1999) and deliver new and refurbished trains.

Connex is one of the world's leading private operators in the passenger transport sector, providing urban, suburban, inter-city and regional passenger services on buses, trains, trams and ferries.

Connex Group Australia operates in Melbourne (trains), Sydney (Monorail, Light Rail, buses) and Noumea (buses).