



MEDIA RELEASE
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Politicians challenged to travel by bus for free saving taxpayers and the environment

Greyhound Australia is offering free coach travel to all State and Federal politicians in an effort to slash the burden on taxpayers who payout millions on airfares and government cars.

Chief Executive Officer Robert Thomas said any Federal or State Member of Parliament (MP) and one staffer can travel for free when on official business on Greyhound's vast network, saving money and the environment.

"Everyone from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull to local State and Federal Members of Parliament can travel for free," Mr Thomas said.

"It's understandable for some politicians needing to have to fly when travelling vast distances but for any meeting or Parliamentary sitting when the distance travelled is between 50 and 500 kilometres, it's world best practice to go by coach.

"We are doing this to save taxpayers money but also to help politicians set the example when it comes to reducing their carbon footprint."

Mr Thomas said at the very least any politician who is based within 500 kilometres of their state capital or Canberra should travel by bus for Parliament.

"We would like to see all politicians using a coach at least once this year," he said.

"It would be interesting to see how the savings would add up by not using an expensive airfare or the government car.

"The government car would save on the driver, fuel and wear and tear of the vehicle on long journeys."

Mr Thomas also said on routes such as Toowoomba to Brisbane and Canberra to Sydney the bus was more efficient and easier than the aeroplane.

"Our studies show a Greyhound coach can make the Canberra to Sydney trip at a very comparable time to a flight, when you consider the time taken to travel to and from the airport and the check-in and check-outs," he said.

"Our coaches also travel from city centre to city centre, saving travellers the additional cost of cab charges associated with flying."

"It would also help our politicians get back in touch with the people they represent."

Greyhound Australia has expanded the popular Canberra to Sydney route offering more than 22 different services between the two cities on modern coaches with business class-style seats.

Mr Thomas expected State Transport and Environment Ministers as well as Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett to be very supportive of the move as they would also be doing their bit for the environment.

Late last year Greyhound Australia partnered with Cleaner Climate, an international carbon management company, giving passengers the option of reducing the impact of their bus trip by offsetting CO2 emissions.



“Since we began, the official numbers say Greyhound customers have offset more than 4 million kilos of carbon – equal to more than 100,000 rental car days,” he said.

“When compared to jet aircraft, studies have shown one full coach has five times less CO2 emissions per passenger per kilometre on the same route. Just one full Greyhound coach also means there are at least 16 fewer cars on the road.

“Greyhound also uses, where available, BP 10ppm diesel - the cleanest fuel available in Australia.”

Mr Thomas said Greyhound Australia was committed to providing affordable and greener travel to all Australians and politicians could lead by example.

“We’ve noticed more people are deciding to take the coach alternative for their holidays instead of driving their cars or going by plane. In some instances, coach travel with Greyhound is actually less than half the cost of a plane ticket,” he said.

“Greyhound has a range of economical travel offers. In addition, the coach provides a faster, hassle-free and environmentally-conscious way to travel.

“Greyhound is a green, flexible and very practical alternative to the airlines. Passengers can also enjoy the luxury of fully air-conditioned coaches, large panoramic windows, LCD screens, filtered water and a restroom on-board.”

For more information visit the Greyhound website at www.greyhound.com.au or call 1300GREYHOUND (1300 473 946).

For politicians wishing to book travel with Greyhound please email: marketing@greyhound.com.au

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