

Three-Axle Mass Limit Increase a Win for All

6 March 2018

BusNSW welcomes today's announcement by Roads Minister Melinda Pavey that the NSW Government will raise the gross mass limit for buses and coaches from 20.5 to 22 tonnes.

BusNSW Executive Director, Matt Threlkeld, said that the industry has been advocating for this increase to the three-axle mass limit for some time and it is a relief that Minister Pavey has taken action, with a common-sense approach to this issue.

"More robust suspension and braking systems, fire suppression systems, heavy duty seats with seatbelts, complex engine designs to reduce emissions and the provision of wheel chair lifts have all added to the overall weight of modern day buses and coaches," Threlkeld said.

"We commend Minister Pavey for recognising that an increase to the three-axle mass limit provides safety benefits for passengers and the public as well as productivity benefits for bus and coach operators" Threlkeld said

BusNSW President, John King, said the announcement by Minister Pavey was a win for all and will allow operators to use vehicles with the latest engineering and safety technology.

"Three-axle buses and coaches operate thousands of journeys every year and make a significant contribution to the visitor economy by transporting students, seniors and tourists around NSW," King said.

"The increased weight limits will now give operators the confidence to use a vehicle's full authorised seating capacity in the knowledge that they are meeting safety standards and complying with the law," King said.

"We hope this initiative from the NSW Government will give the National Transport Commission some incentive to expedite work on a national approach that provides consistent three-axle mass limits across borders" King said.

"We look forward to seeing the detail relating to eligibility for the higher mass limit in NSW" King said.

For more information please call Matt Threlkeld, Executive Director, BusNSW, on 0412 624 045 or John King, President, BusNSW, on 0412 131 102.