

# Media Release

**The Hon Ben Carroll MP**

Minister for Industry and Innovation  
Minister for Manufacturing Sovereignty  
Minister for Employment  
Minister for Public Transport



Wednesday, 10 May 2023

## NEW MELBOURNE BUS CONTRACTS TO BENEFIT PASSENGERS

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering new metropolitan bus contracts that support our transition to a zero-emissions bus network, providing more modern and reliable services to get Victorians where they need to go.

Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll today announced the process of recontracting 30 per cent of the metropolitan bus network will soon get underway, as part of the Labor Government's push towards a cleaner and more sustainable bus fleet – with all new buses on Victoria's public transport routes to be zero-emissions from 2025.

Creating a greener fleet is also part of Victoria's Bus Plan to improve passenger experience and deliver value for money for Victorians, with new, greener buses critical to the Labor Government's goal of net zero emissions by 2045.

Under the recontracting process, the market will be asked to submit proposals on how to boost passenger experience, deliver network and operating efficiencies and optimise the transition to zero emissions buses, building on the Government's \$20 million, Zero Emissions Bus (ZEB) Trial.

The trial is informing the transition of around 4,000 diesel buses in the state's public fleet, including around 2,200 in regional Victoria, to zero emissions.

The trial is also fostering vital local industry partnerships – such as with energy providers and manufacturers – that will be needed to achieve the transition across the state.

The Government will support existing and any new operators through the transition to the new contracts, which will commence on 1 July 2025.

The new contracts bring consistency to commercial arrangements across the metropolitan bus network, in line with the 10-year contracts other operators signed in 2018 and the Metropolitan Bus Franchise signed in 2022.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll

*"These new metropolitan bus contracts support Victoria's Bus Plan and will help tackle emissions on the bus network – which is critical to Victoria meeting our commitment of net zero emissions by 2045."*

*"We're providing greater flexibility to deliver a more modern, efficient and reliable bus network that attracts more passengers and gets them where they need to go."*