



Gladys Berejiklian MP

Minister for Transport

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER CONDEMNS BUS DRIVER STRIKE

NSW Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian has condemned today's snap action by members of the Bus & Tram Division of the NSW Rail, Tram and Bus Union which will leave thousands of passengers stranded.

Ms Berejiklian said the State Transit Authority was seeking urgent action in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission to get the drivers to end their illegal action and get back on the road.

"The union cites a bus fire on July 29 as the reason for this illegal strike – but it's ironic it comes during negotiations for a new pay deal," Ms Berejiklian said.

"I am disgusted bus drivers are deserting their passengers – including school children – in the afternoon peak.

"Only yesterday talks between the executive of State Transit and the union broke down despite State Transit's best efforts to come to an agreement."

Ms Berejiklian said on 29 July a Mercedes OC500LE gas bus caught fire in Hillsdale. The Office of Transport Safety Investigations is investigating the fire.

"There are 254 of these Mercedes gas buses in the Sydney Buses fleet and all have been inspected by State Transit mechanics as well as the bus manufacturer Mercedes-Benz," she said.

"The buses have been deemed safe to operate. As a precaution, State Transit has been conducting weekly checks on these Mercedes gas buses.

"Passenger safety is paramount and State Transit would never let a bus leave a depot if it felt it was unsafe."

Bus drivers have been offered a pay rise of up to 3.25 per cent.