

Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Secretary,

Please find attached a short submission from the Bus Industry Confederation of Australia (BIC) to the Senate Inquiry into the Skills Councils.

I apologise for the lateness of this submission.

As background, the Bus Industry Confederation represents bus and coach operators and suppliers to the industry.

The submission relates to the provision of bus and coach services and the challenges the industry face in regard,

- attracting people to work within the industry and specifically:
 - a) drivers;
 - b) diesel mechanics; and
 - c) management .

These challenges have existed for some time but are becoming of greater urgency as a result in the exponential growth in public transport and demand for services.

The BIC supports the role that the Logistics Industry Skills Council plays in supporting the industry to:

- increase the size and capability of its transport and logistics workforce;
- assist with workforce development;
- meet the challenges that exist during resource and construction booms that impact on attracting and retaining labour; and
- develop industry specific training packages to make the sector a more attractive job and career opportunity.

A strong knowledge-base in the bus and coach industry will enable continued growth and ensure its stability and long-term viability.

The Transport and Logistics Industry Skill Council is vital to ensure that the qualifications required in our sector are easily available to those who want them and are of the highest quality, easily transferable across state borders.

The bus industry is presently developing a nationally recognised cadetship program, which includes a diploma level qualification. This is being supported by bus associations across the country. This qualification will target all those who want a transport and logistics qualification, targeted specifically at the bus and coach industry. We have engaged with transport authorities and regulators across the jurisdictions. We have liaised with the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council in this process. We value their support and support their goals; we write this to complement their submission to this Inquiry.

The bus and coach industry feels strongly, based on our experience at working with TILSC, that having bodies like Industry Skills Councils will strengthen our labour skill set and knowledge base and improve our ability to attract people to the bus and coach industry.

Kind regards,

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Executive Director



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National Secretariat

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