



UITP Condemns Emissions Trading Scheme

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*This is an announcement from the **UITP**. The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is the worldwide network of public transport professionals. UITP represents over 3100 urban, local, regional and national mobility actors from more than 110 countries on all continents.*

Today in Canberra, the Australian Office of the Brussels based International Association of Public Transport – UITPANZ, strongly condemned the proposal by the Federal Government to ease the pain of an emissions trading scheme on motorists, while it appears the public transport sector will be left to fend for itself in the face of higher energy costs.

“It will be unfortunate if train, tram and bus users around Australia had to pay higher costs for electricity while private car drivers were compensated”, says UITPANZ Executive Director, Peter Moore.

"Public transport is one of the largest opportunities we have to address the major issues facing society, and changing people's travel habits to forms other than the private car more often can significantly improve Australia's quality of life" says UITPANZ Executive Director, Peter Moore. "Public transport can make a major contribution, but needs expanded capacity, and we need incentives for Australians to take public transport through enhanced infrastructure and quality, cost effective, high performance systems. Higher energy charges passed on to public transport users is hardly an incentive.

There are reported warnings that energy costs could spiral up to ten (10) times current levels within a decade according to an Australian Reserve Bank board member (2 April 2008). Predicted global warming and demand from Asia for resources could dramatically force up energy prices to extreme levels.

The solution for our cities and future energy use will depend increasingly on investing in other forms of transport to the single occupant private motor car and delivery truck.

In fact, no city world-wide is functioning well without public transport, and those that have robust, dense networks are those that are functioning most efficiently – making public transport an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss!¹

The cost of congestion in Australian cities is put at \$20.4 billion and is expected to double by 2015 if no action is taken². Business as usual is no longer an option. Improving public transport will help keep Australia a good place to live for our kids – rather than jeopardise their future with local pollution and accelerating climate change. Yet there is still a resistance from some decision makers to give priority to public transport and put it higher on the list of priorities.

¹Through investment in ongoing sustainable development in cities well-served by a quality public

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transport, will see the emergence of a dynamic urban society that is concerned about the legacy it leaves for future generations," stated Mr. Moore

"Charging public transport users for higher energy costs while compensating motorists could hardly be called smart sustainable development", stated Mr Moore.



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