

## media release

# New Providers for Darwin Bus Service

6 July 2014

The Northern Territory Department of Transport, through a rigorous public tender process, has selected Transit Systems Pty Ltd as the new provider of public bus services for the Greater Darwin area.

Department of Transport Chief Executive Clare Gardiner-Barnes said the provision of public transport services by a commercial operator is a key component of the NT Government's strategic priority to enable economic and social development.

"Transferring the operation of bus services to the private sector has the potential to improve innovation and service delivery and means that the Department of Transport can focus on its role to set the direction, design and delivery of efficient transport services, rather than the day-to-day running of the public transport business.

"Established in 1995, Transit Systems Pty Ltd is an Australian-owned, family company with successful bus and ferry operations in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland. In 2013, Transit Systems won a contract to operate 20 of London's iconic double-decker big red bus routes, including the famous Oxford Street route. We welcome their entry into the Territory market.

"As well as improving efficiencies and facilitating growth in the local economy, the new contract will provide almost 13% savings per kilometre for Government.

"It is important to note that all current ongoing staff at Darwin Bus Service (DBS) will be offered employment with Transit Systems Pty Ltd. All staff that transfer to the new operator will do so under the same rates of pay and job conditions.

"For users of the Darwin Bus Service, there will be no impact on the current level of services. Routes and fares will remain the same. The new arrangements do not include School bus services, which will continue to operate as per the existing timetable.

Ms Gardiner-Barnes said the transfer of business process will take between three and four months to complete, and the new provider will work closely with staff and Government to ensure a seamless transition.

"DBS staff and Union representatives were advised earlier today of the new arrangements and the Department and new operator will continue to consult with affected staff throughout the transition period.

“I am very proud of the exemplary reputation of the Darwinbus workforce. In the past few weeks alone, bus drivers and staff at DBS have received two public accolades from interstate visitors for their friendly, professional service and on behalf of the Department and the general public, I thank all the staff at DBS for many years of dedicated and professional service,” Ms Gardiner-Barnes said.

Any staff or members of the public with further questions should go to [www.transport.nt.gov.au/feedback](http://www.transport.nt.gov.au/feedback) and your query will be answered as quickly as possible

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