

Forest Coach lines
Public Relations
Telephone (02) 9450-2277
Facsimile (02) 9450-1619

MEDIA RELEASE

11 Nov 2011

DOUBLE DECK BUSES WILL HELP REMOVE THE NSW GOVERNMENT'S TRANSPORT WOES

For the first time in 25 years a double deck bus will enter into service on a Sydney Road on Monday morning.

Northern Beaches operator, Forest Coach Lines, will be trialling the Queensland built vehicle in the coming weeks on their ever expanding City services from Frenchs Forest and St. Ives to gauge the suitability of the vehicle on Sydney's harsh congested motorways.

Double Deck buses are currently being trialled on the Gold Coast by the same Queensland Bus Manufacturer. The high capacity people mover can seat 96 passengers and will take well over 100 with standees. The unique design makes it the only dual front axle bus in operation which allows it to overcome strict weight limits and cater for the extra deck.

Forest Coach Lines Managing Director David Royle said, "This vehicle is the Airbus, A380 of buses. With its large seating capacity (30 more than the articulated buses), I'm anticipating this will be very popular with our passengers on the rapidly growing suburban to City express routes. The vehicle offers superior fuel efficiency to other high capacity vehicles and a lower cost per passenger delivering both environmental benefits and better value for money.

"The vehicle is 12.5 metres long representing the same length as regular buses in services. We are mindful of CBD congestion and kerb space as a premium and this vehicle will make more efficient use of the limited road space available in peaks. Articulated buses for instance take up 18 metres of road space. We intend to put this prototype vehicle into service next week and pending the success of the trial we will put a submission to government for these vehicles to become a regular part of the Forest fleet."

Mr Royle further advised, "The double deck bus meets all of the Government's procurement standards for its metropolitan route buses and we are hoping that the government will enter into partnership with us to ensure that these innovations from Forest Coach Lines are implemented for the benefit of the public who are slowly losing patience with our congested transport system."

Further Information:

..... Public Relations, Forest Coach lines. Phone: 9450-2277

David Royle, Managing Director, Forest Coach lines.