Parliament Passes Bus Safety Changes

The Northern Territory Government has boosted safety on the bus network by giving Transit Officers greater powers to deal with anti-social behaviour.

Transport Minister Delia Lawrie said the Public Transport (Passenger Safety) Bill passed in Parliament today.

“We have a busy bus network and we are boosting safety for families that use public transport,” she said.

“These new measures give Transit Officers greater powers to deal with unacceptable anti-social behaviour.

“Transit Officers will have the powers of restraint and the ability to detain problem people on the bus network.

“Transit Officers have demonstrated that they are boosting safety and working well with support from police operations.

“The Territory Government provided an additional $750,000 for the Transit Officers in Budget 2008 which will boost their force to six full time staff and a supervisor.

“This will also provide for dedicated vehicles, uniforms, comprehensive training and a code of conduct to assist them in their operations.”

The changes will be in place mid July and Transit Officers will undergo thorough training to equip them with the skills to use their new powers.

In addition to this, the Henderson Government also increased the maximum penalty for assaulting a bus or commercial passenger licence driver from one to five years in the last parliamentary sittings.

The public bus network includes 245 CCTV cameras at interchanges and on buses for surveillance and safety.

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