

PRESS RELEASE

18 February 2019

Australia: Keolis adds light rail to its multimodal transport network in Newcastle ahead of schedule

- **Keolis' Australian subsidiary Keolis Downer, has started operating Newcastle's new light rail service as part of the city's multimodal transport network**
- **Operations are starting ahead of schedule, giving local residents and visitors the opportunity to benefit from the new service sooner than expected**
- **This new milestone reinforces Keolis' presence in Australia where it has introduced and operated light rail networks, buses, on-demand transport and autonomous electric vehicles since 2009**
- **It also illustrates Keolis' commitment to support the delivery of seamlessly integrated, shared mobility systems that revitalise cities and makes them more enjoyable and more liveable**

On 18 February 2019, Keolis' Australian subsidiary, Keolis Downer, started operating the new light rail of Newcastle on behalf of Transport for New South Wales a month ahead of schedule. Located north of Sydney, Newcastle is home to 360,000 people who have access to a multimodal transport network operated by Keolis Downer.

Awarded in December 2016, the multimodal transport contract was the first of its kind to be entrusted to a private operator in Australia and covers the operations and maintenance of the entire network (light-rail, buses and ferries) for a period of 10 years. In July 2017, Keolis Downer started operating the bus and ferry services and in January 2018 re-designed the bus service while introducing a real-time, on-demand transport service, powered by Via, the leading developer of shared ride technology.

Keolis Downer's team worked relentlessly to launch services ahead of schedule. As part of the testing phase, 14 drivers were trained and a record 10,000km driven in just over four months, equivalent to 1,000 trips per tram across the network.

The 2.7km long network features six stations and runs between Wickham and Pacific Park. This new network provides Novocastrians with a new way to travel while efficiently connecting with existing bus and ferry services. It has been integral to the

revitalisation of Newcastle, opening the city back up to its waterfront and connecting it all with an integrated multimodal transport network. Furthermore, the line is catenary free preserving Newcastle's urban landscape from overhead wires.

*" We redesigned the bus and ferry network with efficient interchange hubs for light rail to encourage more people to use public transport," observed **Bernard Tabary, International CEO, Keolis Group.** "Thanks to light rail, Newcastle's transport network is truly multimodal and will make residents' and visitors' lives easier and the city even more enjoyable."*

Keolis in Australia

Keolis Downer is active in Australia since 2009. It counts 4,000 employees and carries more than 250 million passenger per year. In addition to the Newcastle multimodal network, the group operates the light rail networks of Melbourne (the largest and oldest tram network in the world) and Gold Coast, as well as bus networks in three states (Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland), autonomous electric shuttles (in universities in Melbourne and Adelaide), and real-time, on-demand transport in the state of New South Wales.

A world leader in light-rail operations

Keolis is responsible for 25 tram networks (985,5km of track) around the world:

- 14 networks in France (Angers, Bordeaux, Besançon, Brest, Caen, Dijon, Le Mans, Lille, Lyon, Nancy, Orléans, Paris region, Strasbourg et Tours) ;
- 8 international networks: Aarhus (Denmark), Bergen (Norway), Gold Coast, Melbourne and now Newcastle (Australia), Nottingham, Manchester (UK), Shanghai (China).
- 3 networks soon to be launched: Lusail (Qatar), Odense (Denmark) and Waterloo (Canada).

Newcastle's multimodal transport network in figures

- Operations began on 1 July 2017 with bus and ferry services
- A multimodal transport network composed of:
 - Light rail
 - 2.7km long featuring six stations6 light rail vehicles (33-metres long) made by CAF
 - Catenary-free, powered in 23 seconds by a supercapacity energy system at each station
 - Up to 270 passengers per vehicle
 - Fully accessible, low floor design
 - Fitted with surfboard racks
- 174 buses
- 2 ferries
- On-demand transport in real-time with Via

About Keolis

Leading the way in public transport, Keolis partners with public decision makers to make shared mobility an asset for cities and their communities. Internationally recognised as the leading operator of trams and automated metros, Keolis adopts a determined innovation approach with all its partners and subsidiaries (Kisio, LeCab, EFFIA, Keolis Santé and Cykleo) to develop new forms of shared and customised mobility, and reinforce its core business across a range of transport modes including trains, buses, cars, trolleybuses, shared private hire vehicles, river shuttles, ferries, cycles, car sharing services, electric autonomous vehicles and urban cable cars. In France, Keolis is now the leader in medical transport services through the creation of Keolis Santé in July 2017 and positioned as the number two car park operator, through its subsidiary EFFIA.

The company is 70% owned by SNCF and 30% by the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ). Keolis employs 63,000 people in 16 countries and recorded a turnover of 5.4 billion euros in 2017. Today, over 3 billion passengers worldwide have used one of the shared mobility services offered by Keolis. www.keolis.com

**Historically based in France, Keolis has expanded its operations in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Qatar, Sweden, the UK and the USA.*

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