



**Office of Transport Safety Investigations**

# **BUS SAFETY INVESTIGATION INTERIM FACTUAL STATEMENT**

**BUS FIRE OF TV 8308**

**HOMEBUSH BAY DRIVE EXIT, HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY**

**8 FEBRUARY 2017**



# THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORT SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS

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The Office of Transport Safety Investigations (OTSI) is an independent NSW agency whose purpose is to improve transport safety through the investigation of incidents and accidents in the rail, bus and ferry industries. OTSI investigations are independent of regulatory, operator or other external entities.

Established on 1 January 2004 by the *Transport Administration Act 1988 (NSW)*, and confirmed by amending legislation as an independent statutory office on 1 July 2005, OTSI is responsible for determining the contributing factors of accidents and to make recommendations for the implementation of remedial safety action to prevent recurrence. Importantly, however, OTSI does not confine itself to the consideration of just those matters that contributed to a particular accident; it also seeks to identify any transport safety matters which, if left unaddressed, might contribute to other accidents.

OTSI's investigations are conducted under powers conferred by the *Transport Administration Act 1988 (NSW)* and *Passenger Transport Act 1990 (NSW)*. Additionally, all OTSI publications that are considered investigation reports are also conferred by these Acts. OTSI also conducts rail investigations on behalf of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau under the *Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (Cwlth)*. OTSI investigators normally seek to obtain information cooperatively when conducting an accident investigation. However, where it is necessary to do so, OTSI investigators may exercise statutory powers to interview persons, enter premises and examine and retain physical and documentary evidence.

It is not within OTSI's jurisdiction, nor an object of its investigations, to apportion blame or determine liability. At all times, OTSI's investigation reports strive to reflect our balanced approach to the investigation, in a manner that properly explains what happened, and why, in a fair and unbiased manner.

Once OTSI has completed an investigation, its report is provided to the NSW Minister for Transport and Infrastructure for tabling in Parliament. The Minister is required to table the report in both Houses of the NSW Parliament within seven days of receiving it. Following tabling, the report is published on OTSI's website at [www.otsi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.otsi.nsw.gov.au).

## **Overview**

Approximately 0700 on Wednesday 8 February 2017, the driver of a Telford Tours' bus TV 8308, noted smoke emitting at the rear of near-side of the bus. At the time the bus was travelling westbound on the Sydney M4 Motorway. After noting the smoke, the driver veered the vehicle onto the Homebush Bay Drive exit at Homebush and stopped the vehicle adjacent to a pathway. The driver evacuated the 10 passengers travelling on the bus to a suitable location. No passengers or the driver received any injuries as a result of the incident. A fire developed and the bus was destroyed.

## **Notification and Response**

An OTSI investigator was deployed to the Telford Tours' bus depot at Turrella, Sydney to assess and conduct a preliminary investigation into the cause of the fire.

Due to findings within the preliminary investigation, the Chief Investigator determined that the incident warranted formal investigation in accordance with Section 46BA of the *Passenger Transport Act 1990*.

## **Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference established by the Chief Investigator require OTSI's Investigator in Charge to:

- a. identify the factors, both primary and contributory, which led to the incident;
- b. advise whether the incident may have been anticipated,
- c. report on the effectiveness of any strategies that were in place to manage the related risks; and,
- d. advise on any matters arising from the investigation that would enhance the safety of bus operations.

## **Status of the Investigation**

OTSI's investigation has commenced. During the course of the investigation, all Directly Involved Parties (DIPs) will be consulted and will be afforded the opportunity to

provide information and commentary, which will contribute to ensuring that the investigation and its report are inclusive and comprehensive.

Once completed, OTSI's investigation report will be tabled in both Houses of the NSW Parliament by the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure in accordance with Section 46D of the *Passenger Transport Act 1990*. When the report has been tabled, it will be published on OTSI's website and will replace this Interim Factual Statement.