



## Bus Safety Investigation

25 February 2005

**Collision between two State Transit Authority buses in the Eastern Distributor Tunnel, Sydney.**



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### **Overview**

About 8.40am on Friday 25 February 2005, two Northbound State Transit Mercedes buses entered the Eastern distributor tunnel from the Moore Park Road entrance.

Whilst negotiating a right hand bend in the tunnel, the leading bus travelling route X73 was forced to apply brakes due to slowing traffic in front. The following bus travelling route X74 failed to reduce its speed adequately and collided with the rear of the leading bus. Both buses were travelling with a full standing load of passengers.

As a result of the collision, a number of persons were conveyed to hospital by ambulance suffering minor injuries.

### **Investigation**

The braking system of both buses is of the full air brake type, with an engine driven compressor supplying air pressure to supply tanks which store pressure for brake applications. On inspection of the buses at the scene, it was observed that the following bus, X74, had full air pressure available in the braking system. Furthermore, accident damage to the front bulkhead of the bus had caused the brake pedal to be jammed in the apply position. To allow the bus to be towed for further examination, the brake linkage was removed under the supervision of investigators from the Office of Transport Safety Investigations.

On arrival at the depot, repairs to the damaged bulkhead were carried out so that the braking system could be made functional. Subsequent brake tests on a calibrated testing machine showed that the braking system of this bus was functioning both correctly and with a roadworthy level of efficiency.

The stop lights of the leading bus were examined and it was established that all brake lights fitted to the rear of the bus were functioning at the time of the collision.

Initial investigation has eliminated poor braking performance on either bus as a likely cause and it was established that the brake lights on the leading bus were functioning correctly.

Police are investigating this collision under the P4 criteria of accident, as persons were conveyed to hospital and both vehicles were towed from the scene.

### **Further Investigation**

The Office of Transport Safety Investigation will continue to investigate this incident in accordance with section 46B of the Passenger Transport Act 1990.