



## Media release

### Seymour Passenger Services

25 October 2023: Seymour Victoria

#### **First regional town in Victoria to go all electric buses ignites spark for the first 'United Nations World Sustainable Transport Day'**

As part of the Victorian Government Zero Emissions Bus Trial (ZEB), Seymour Passenger Service is today Wed 25<sup>th</sup> October celebrating becoming the first regional town in Victoria to operate an all-electric local route bus network.

The Hon. Gabrielle Williams, Victoria's new Minister for Public and Active Transport, cut the ribbon at the Seymour Bus depot to commemorate the occasion during one of the Minister's first official events with her new transport portfolio.

"I'm delighted to be at Seymour to celebrate the success of Victoria's Zero Emissions Bus trial which is paving the way for more sustainable transport for the state and I congratulate the many businesses and stakeholders who have made this possible," Minister Williams said.

"Having Seymour as the first regional town in Victoria to go 'all electric' with their buses is a feather in the cap of the town and a perfect outcome to highlight in the lead up to World Sustainable transport Day in November."

The United Nations says that *Sustainable transport — with its objectives of universal access, enhanced safety, reduced environmental and climate impact, improved resilience, and greater efficiency — is central to sustainable development.*

Seymour Passenger Services is marking the occasion by igniting the spark with local Seymour schools with an education challenge to engage students in sustainable transport in the lead up to the first *United Nations World Sustainable Transport Day* on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

Students test their knowledge in sustainable transport with the prize including a depot tour, BBQ – and of course a ride in Seymour Passenger Services' Volvo electric bus.

Andrew Chan, Sita Holdings Group General Manager and Seymour Passenger Services ZEB lead attributed the success of the trial to the collaboration of the many stakeholders. "Building an electric bus network is a technology challenge which can only be achieved through the partnership and cooperation of many stakeholders – from the e-charging infrastructure design and construction to the power supply, the bus manufacturer, software companies and many other key stakeholders, Mr Chan said.

"Like anything worth doing, this has been a complex and challenging process requiring incredible determination, commitment and collaboration across multiple companies. In the process we have all learnt a lot and it has brought out the great character it takes to get things done. I'd like to thank each of the partners involved."



"In partnership with our project partners, Volvo, Mondo, Sprightly, Volgren, Siemens and EVenergi, we are proud to support our local community to future proof and support our residents with these new renewable energy assets." We would like to thank the fellow ZEB bus participants "CDC Victoria, Kinetic Melbourne, Latrobe Valley Bus Lines, Sunbury Coaches, Transit Systems and Ventura Bus for our shared learning approach and the Department of Transport and Planning for championing this important project.

## Quotes from project partners

Siemens Australia CEO Peter Halliday

"From the outset this is a pilot of new technology which is trying to rapidly prepare for what is probably the most significant transition in our history. Possibly the most important part of a pilot is to see how the different players collaborate and work together when the chips are down. Pleasingly, our local and global teams have worked closely and collaboratively on this project with Kastoria Bus Lines (Seymour Passenger Services) and will continue to do so. Andrew Chan has been a positive driving force throughout the process. The lessons learnt have been an invaluable part of the process and I'm confident that this team approach will pay dividends for Victoria in the long run."

Volvo Bus Australia General Manager Mitch Pedan

*"Volvo Bus Australia is very pleased to be a lead partner in the rollout of Zero Emission Buses into Seymour alongside Seymour Passenger Services and the other distinguished partners that assisted to bring this project life. Through the partnership with Volvo Bus, Seymour Passenger Services have delivered the latest technologies into their business to service the Seymour community, along with the latest support and training available to enable the highest possible fleet in-service availability and passenger comfort and safety".*

Volgren Chief Commercial Officer

*"Yuri Tessari expresses deep pride in Volgren's involvement in electrifying public transport in regional areas. "Witnessing the buses manufactured right here in Victoria make a tangible difference in promoting cleaner and healthier environments for our regional cities is truly heartening. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our business partners whose contributions have made this remarkable project a reality. A special thank you goes to Dom, Andrew and all the team at Seymour Passenger Services for placing their trust in Volgren's products."*

EVenergi CEO Daniel Hilson

*"EVenergi is honoured to support this landmark deployment of EV technology in the first regional town to have a fully electrified bus fleet in Australia," said Daniel Hilson, EVenergi CEO. "With our advanced software solutions to manage their vehicles and chargers, the Seymour fleet can be optimised based on data-driven decisions for efficient, cost-effective EV fleet operations."*

Sprightly CEO Brett Werner

*Sprightly is extremely proud to showcase home-grown Victorian innovation in real time Passenger Information Display and the latest driver safety technology in Seymour's zero emission buses. Our collaboration with Andrew (Chan) and Seymour has been highly rewarding, with just last week (October 19) Sprightly winning the 2023 ASIAL Security Industry Award for "Product of the Year - CCTV IP Systems/Solution"*

Mondo New Energy Manager Jadd Clifford-Bolt

*"As we embark on this historic journey towards a greener future, Mondo is proud to have partnered with Seymour Passenger Services and project partners to deliver Australia's first fully electrified bus service in regional Victoria," said Mondo's New Energy Manager Jaad Clifford-Bolt.*