



Media Release

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NZ Bus wins road transport innovation award

It may seem strange for the chief executive of a bus company to win an award at a trucking industry event but passenger transport and freight transport are at the end of the day just about moving stuff around, says Road Transport Forum Chief Executive Ken Shirley.

Zane Fulljames, Chief Executive of NZ Bus was one of two winners of the newly created Industry Innovation Award at the New Zealand Road Transport Industry Awards in Tauranga on Friday night.

In April NZ Bus announced a \$43 million deal to retrofit its iconic Wellington trolley buses with the Wrightspeed electric powertrain, bypassing diesel hybrid technology to go straight to electric. NZ Bus therefore became the first major transport company in New Zealand to make such a move.

This is also the first time that the Wrightspeed system has been used to power public transport vehicles and is a sign of things to come for the wider transport sector here in New Zealand including the road freight industry.

Vehicles fitted with the Wrightspeed powertrain deliver significant reductions in emissions and noise as well as efficiencies in fuel and running costs.

“Zane and the whole team at NZ Bus very much deserve this award for the innovative thinking and courage to invest in such cutting-edge technology,” says Shirley. “We look forward to other transport organisations following their lead.”

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