

# Commercial and financial considerations of transitioning to a Zero Emission Fleet

1 December 2021



### Overview for this session



- 1. Why I think that this is so important for operators to act on now
- 2. Highlight some key uncertainties that need to be resolved
- 3. Put my thoughts for a plan on a page
- 4. Focus on some drivers of the commercial and financial implications
- 5. Consider some of the financial implications for your business

### My top reasons why this is so important for operators





Government are unsure of how they will approach the transition to ZEBs



Outside of a system implementation, this is a significant transformational project for your business



With all new emerging technologies, the operational and financial implications, including key risks are not fully understood

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### My top reasons why this is so important for operators





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The suppler eco-system is emerging but not yet mature



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Current contractual models may expose the operator to financial risks during ZEB transition and ongoing provision of services

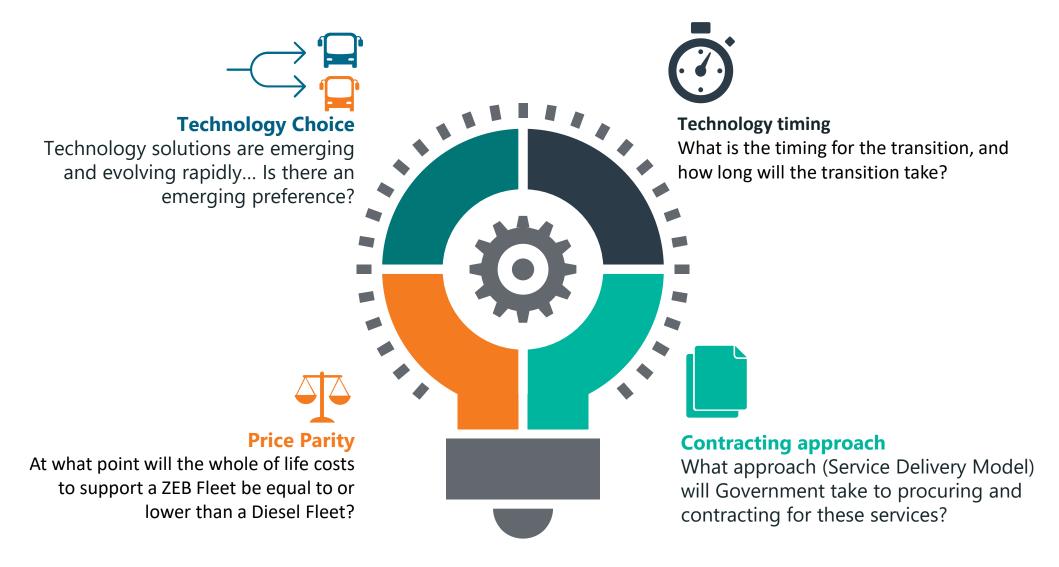


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Knowledge of transition and operation of a ZEB fleet will be a competitive advantage over the short to medium term

### Some key uncertainties and decisions





### Planning for the transition to ZEB Fleet



1. Research

2. Planning

3. Proof of Concept

4. Transition

5. ZEB Business as Usual

- 1. Research ZEBs technology
- 2. Early engagement with key suppliers
- Understand emerging regulations and standards
- Analyse how your operations will change with the introduction of ZEBs
- 5. Understanding key operational and financial risks
- Analyse the financial implications, including key fixed and variable elements; sensitivities and risk; initial modelling.
- Develop an initial business/operational plan with a view to implementation and business as usual
- 8. Identify key decisions to be made

- Government backed / self-funded
- 2. Further validate/understand key operational implications; and to assist in future direction/decisions
- Enable a deeper understanding of the approach to transitioning to a ZEB Fleet
- 4. Validation of key financial data, further understanding of key sensitivities and risks
- 5. Consideration of how to manage operational and financial risks
- 6. Develop a transition plan, including an operational model and financial model to support the move to BAU
- 7. Review contractual implications

- Contractual adjustments: operational / financial
- 2. Transition project focused on, activities such as;
  - Changes to Depot infrastructure and fleet
  - Operational changes, scheduling and maintenance
  - People, process and system changes
  - Procurement and supply chain
- 3. Manage the financial implications of transition
- 4. Manage and mitigating risks during transition
- Monitoring and reporting against business and financial plans
- 6. Transition to BAU including approach to business sustainability and continuity
- 7. Managing lifecycle investment, including asset management, refresh and residual values



#### **Operational implications**

Scheduling / Rostering
Fleet requirements PVR / Spares
Maintenance / Refurbs
Labour – training / outsourcing
Fuel / Energy
Training / process Change
Information ERP Systems Change



#### **Contractual implications**

Approach to and timing for fleet transition
Implication for EOL (diesel) fleet funding
Upfront investment for transition
Changes to funding models
Allocation of risks, including financial risks
Depot and fleet ownership
Implications for performance regimes

#### **Supply chain implications**

Vehicle Suppliers – Options (Size, Technology)

Energy suppliers (Electricity / Hydrogen)

Financiers / Insurance

Technology Change

Training providers

#### **Financial implications**

Investment in time, cost of research/planning
Funding for limited trial and proof of concepts
Asset investment models – fleet and depot infrastructure
Net financial operating costs impact
Impact on cashflow, gross margin and profit margins
Return on Asset, Return on Investment
Scenario analysis

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#### Diesel

ZEB

Impact on Driver wages

How will scheduling and rostering of staff change as a result of ZEBs?

- Choice technology, battery/fuel cell, type of vehicle, vehicle distance, charging approach
- Impact resulting form Number of Vehicles to operate network (incl. PVR)

Distance Variable:
Fuel / Energy

- Consumption rates (known)
- Fuel price, AdBlue
- Fuel Rebates

- Battery efficiency / Fuel cell
- Price of electricity / hydrogen, EV taxes
- Approach to charging

Distance Variable:

Maintenance / Repairs /

Refurbs.

The cost is reasonably well known

Funding - <u>Average Cpk</u> rate over the contract

The cost NOT well known;

Funding approach not yet known.

Not enough history to inform Avg. Cpk rate!

Distance Variable: Labour / Outsourced Maint. The cost is reasonably well known with significant history

Funding - Average Cpk rate over the contract

Reliant on trials and supplier information.
Funding approach not yet known
Staff training / upskilling or outsourcing



#### Diesel > ZEB

Direct Fixed Costs
Registration / Insurance

Known fixed cost to support diesel fleet

Mature insurance market

Emerging fixed costs to support ZEBs
Emerging insurance market

Capex. Cost and Depreciation of Infrastructure

Existing fuel tanks and depot infrastructure to support

Multiple solutions for ZEBS, i.e. fast charge/slow charge; hydrogen fuel tanks

Capex. Cost and Depreciation of Fleet

Current finance arrangements, and depreciation (potential issue of impairment); currently lower cost

Emerging finance solutions, different depreciation life, currently higher costs, including batteries

IT system changes: Fleet management, Energy management etc.

Current IT systems support diesel fleet management, refuelling, repairs and maintenance and inventory

Emerging requirements to adapt IT systems to support ZEB fleet / new IT solutions



Trial / Proof of Concept

Key decision to be made around the right technology to suit the nature of your services and the long term sustainability and efficiency of operations.

Scope and price the transition project; understand ongoing opex. and capex. requirements.

Transition (Excl. Capex) Changes to depot

**New IT Systems** 

Process and policy change

Retraining staff

- Project management
- Regulatory compliance

End of life costs Diesel fleet

- Residual Value of Diesel Fleet, residual Government funding
- Retirement cost of Diesel infrastructure
- Depot infrastructure and remediation costs

Important to know

- The Net Financial Impact on your business of the transition to ZEB fleet
- Understand the investment required, including transition cost
- Consider financial risks and allow for contingency in estimates
- Model the profit/loss, balance sheet and cash flow impacts



Q&A



#### Contact us



#### **Matthew Wilson**

Executive Director +61 3 8610 5245 +61 413 621 234 matthew.wilson@pitcher.com.au

Over 20 years experience in financial consulting, including supporting the bus industry around Australia engage with Government through tenders and negotiated contracts.



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