

Motor Industry News Leyland Australia

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WORLD'S SAFEST CITY BUS

Commuters on Sydney's North Shore are the first passengers in Australia to ride the world's safest city bus, the Leyland National. Leyland Australia also claim it is the most comfortable bus in the world.

The single decker National represents a radically new approach to bus design and construction.

Imported from Britain, the vehicle was officially handed over to Forest Coach Lines Pty. Ltd., for three months' trial operation by Mr. John Dewar, Chief Engineer, Truck and Bus Division, Leyland Australia. Also present at the presentation was Mr. Dick Healey, M.L.A. for Davidson.

Mr. Tony Royle, the joint managing director of Forest Coach Lines, said the National would run from the terminus at Chatswood station to suburbs in the French's Forest and Warringah areas.

"We expect it to average 200 miles a day", said Mr. Royle.

The 48-passenger bus sets completely new standards in safety and comfort for passengers.

Nearly 50 percent of the total design and development cost of \$3.06 million was spent in researching and incorporating safety features.

Instead of designing the National in separate stages, such as chassis, bodywork and interior fittings - the most common method of construction - Leyland appointed a team of draftsmen and engineers to plan the bus as an integral unit.

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CARS
ROVER
JAGUAR
DAIMLER

AUSTIN
MORRIS
MG
TRIUMPH

BUSES
LEYLAND
TRUCKS
LEYLAND

COACHES
AB DENNING
PRESSED METAL

FOUR WHEEL
DRIVE
LANDROVER
RANGEROVER

TRACTORS
LEYLAND

ROAD ROLLERS
GRADERS
AVELING-BARFORD

Thus, the vehicle has an immensely strong framework to resist side swipe and protect passengers in the unlikely event of a roll-over accident.

On the other hand, the front of the bus has been designed to collapse progressively in a head-on crash, absorbing the energy of the impact.

A notable feature of the National is the lowered door steps which should be appreciated especially by elderly people.

The steps are covered with a slip-resistant material and the doors are wide for easy entry into the passenger saloon.

The full length of the floor also is overlaid with slip-resistant material and a soft air suspension system ensures a smooth ride for standing as well as seated passengers.

The automatic gearbox - no different from that of an ordinary sedan car - contributes to the smoothness of travel in the National and prevents sudden jerking during acceleration and braking.

Positive power steering and powerful braking are among the vehicle's safe-handling characteristics.

Leyland has paid special attention to passenger comfort by the underfloor mounting of the rear engine to reduce noise, carefully designed lighting and an advanced heating and ventilation system.

The National will operate on routes to Brookvale, Terrey Hills, Killarney Heights, Castle Cove and Forestville.

Melbourne's transport authorities have placed an \$800,000 order for the National and the NSW Public Transport Commission is considering the bus as a replacement for its Leyland Leopard single deckers.