

On the buses



● The late Laurie Dyson

■ First, please let *Long Shots* declare an interest. As a young teenager, all those years ago, *Long Shots* had a deep interest in buses.

Part of this involved hanging around the Dysons depot, collecting timetables and riding the Whittlesea-Humevale-Kinglake bus.

Laurie Dyson took over the Plenty Rd bus service in 1952 with four buses. Route 46A started at Regent Railway Station, and made its way northwards through the then-rural area of Bundoora.

Special weekend services to Larundel and Janefield boosted passenger traffic.

Over the next 65 years four generations of the Dyson family have worked and reinvested to create a business with top facilities and vehicles.

The Andrews Labor State Government now wants to acquire Dyson's assets at the end of the next contract period, essentially dismantling 65 years of one family's work.

"The unions don't want this. We don't want this. Our employees don't want this. The customers don't want this," says one Dyson family member.

The Government is citing improved customer service and greater ability to increase bus services for this decision.

The State Government is reminiscent of the dying days of the Kennett Government in 1999. It is trying to crash through with last-minute deals relating to the Country Fire Authority, buses, and the timber industry.

The State Election is only six months away: Saturday, November 24. It is going to be a busy 29 weeks.

Long Shots



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