



FREE FOOD: Manly Community Centre's Jacquie Smith (left) discusses the service with Hui Clarke. Picture: SIMON DEAN

Buses back on track

JOHN MORCOMBE
transport reporter

FOREST Coach Lines will not be affected by industrial action being taken by drivers employed by other private bus companies in Sydney, the company says.

The news is good for peninsula bus commuters, who could face transport chaos next week if Government bus drivers decide to take strike action.

The Rail, Bus and Tram Union has promised that it would give commuters at least three days' notice of any strike action.

Negotiations between the union and State Transit are continuing and both sides say progress is being made.

Forest Coach Lines director David Royle said he doubted any Forest drivers would get involved in industrial action.

Mr Royle said the company was still negotiating with Transport Minister Michael Costa about private bus contracts within metropolitan Sydney.

He said drivers knew the state of play regarding the negotiations and that discussions on pay and

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■PUBLIC: Peninsula bus commuters look safe for the moment, with no industrial action by Government drivers planned for this area yet

■PRIVATE: Forest Coach Lines employees will likely not follow their counterparts in other private companies by taking industrial action

■PROMISE: Government drivers have pledged to give three days' notice of any industrial action

conditions for drivers would have to wait until the company's future was guaranteed.

"We've had 74 years without strike action and I can't imagine it starting now," he said.

Rail, Bus and Tram union spokesman Nick Lewocki yesterday said the discussion with State Transit had made sufficient progress to avoid the need for industrial action.

"We're continuing to negotiate our enterprise bargaining agreement with State Transit and we're making progress," he said.

Muffin could be finer for needy

LOCAL charity Street Mission is this week opening a new food service in Manly for low-income residents.

The Street Mission Cafe will open tomorrow and operate on Friday evenings from the driveway of the Uniting Church opposite Manly Police Station. It will provide sandwiches and hot drinks for needy people.

"We identified that there is a

need," Street Mission's Alan Clarke said.

"There aren't many homeless in Manly, but after people have paid their rent, they have no disposable income."

The project has support from The Salvation Army, Manly Council and the Uniting Church.

A Dee Why bakery and Muffin Break are supplying the charity with bread, rolls and muffins.

Street Mission has been stock-

ing the emergency food cupboard at Manly Community Centre for six years with non-perishable food, but the new service marks the charity's first venture into a hands-on food outlet.

Street Mission is looking for volunteers to make sandwiches, set up the stand from 6.30pm or distribute food between 7-9pm. Call Alan on 8901 0719 or 0425 272 648.

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