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Sydney borrows from New York security transport push

By Alex Mitchell, State Political Editor

July 24, 2005

The Sun-Herald



Posters will start appearing across Sydney this week urging commuters to be on security alert following the London bombings.

"If you see something, say something" is to become the catchphrase of the Carr Government's \$200,000 counter-terrorist campaign.

Transport Minister John Watkins's department secured a special deal with New York's Metropolitan Transit Authority to use the slogan (see right) they developed after the September 11 terror attacks in 2001.

Under the deal, arranged at no cost between NSW and the New York authorities, the trademark public safety slogan can be used under licence for 12 months and then renewed for six months at a time.

Mr Watkins is keeping a close watch on the latest phase of the New York campaign, which features a bomb detection robot devouring a backpack, with the caption: "If you don't take your bag with you, we will."

Other state governments will monitor the NSW counter-terror campaign and may adopt the same slogan, which will start appearing this week on two-metre-high signs on the sides of Sydney's public buses.

Premier Bob Carr will meet leaders of Sydney's Muslim community on Thursday to discuss proposed changes to the law and ways to combat the influence of hardline groups espousing violence and attempting to recruit and train adherents.

Mr Carr has ordered transport officials and police to review train and bus security, with a view to upgrading surveillance.

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