

## **COMFORTDELGRO CHINA OPERATIONS** **AFFECTED BY WUHAN VIRUS FALLOUT**

30 January 2020 – ComfortDelGro Corporation, which operates in nine cities in China, has started seeing some impact on its operations, including the mandatory closure of its driving centre in Nanjing.

Located about 530km away from Wuhan, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, Nanjing ComfortDelGro Xixia Driver Training Co., Ltd, has been instructed by the authorities to suspend all operations from 28 January 2020 as a precautionary measure. The 60%-owned subsidiary has about 600 students enrolled.

The Group's other driving school, Chengdu ComfortDelGro Qing Yang Driving School Co., Ltd, which is located 1,150km from Wuhan, continues to operate but students have been told that they can defer all confirmed test dates in February for a full refund if they so wish.

Its 60%-owned bus station in Guangzhou, Tianhe Bus Station, has seen a reduction of about 15% in the number of bus trips operated for the Chinese New Year period compared to the same period last year. To-date, 24,000 trips have been operated, with ridership of about 486,000.

The Group also operates taxi services in eight Chinese cities – Beijing, Jilin, Shenyang, Chengdu, Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing and Nanning – with a fleet of 11,000. Impact thus far as been minimal although drivers have reported a drop in demand for their services. The Group is monitoring the unfolding situation closely and is working closely with the relevant authorities in each location and will render assistance to cabbies where needed. To-date, it has provided staff and cabbies with masks and disinfectants, stepped up cleaning and disinfecting schedules, as well as established a contact tracing system.

In Australia and the United Kingdom (UK), where the Group also operates bus and taxi services, the situation has remained stable, although stepped up precautions too have been taken.

In both the UK and Ireland, the risk to the public is currently assessed as low and there has been no confirmed cases. Notwithstanding, all its businesses including Metroline, CityFleet Networks, Scottish CityLink Coaches, Westbus and ComfortDelGro Irish Citylink are ready with their pandemic response plans.

In Australia, seven cases of infection have been confirmed across the different States. ComfortDelGro Corporation Australia (CCA), which has operations in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland, is working closely with the respective State health authorities to put in place precautionary measures to contain the infection and prevent person-to-person transmission. Beyond monitoring staff who have recently returned from overseas, CCA is also actively engaging the business units' health and safety representatives to ensure that its staff are adequately protected and understand the importance of good hygiene. CCA is also working through its healthcare partners to ensure that its stockpile of essential items like masks and sanitisers are adequate.

ComfortDelGro Managing Director/Group CEO, Mr Yang Ban Seng, said: "The situation remains very fluid and we are monitoring it very closely. All our businesses stand prepared to activate business continuity plans where needed. We are also increasing our stock pile of masks, disinfectants and gloves and are ready to distribute them to affected staff and cabbies at a moment's notice.

"In particular, we are lending support to our staff and cabbies in China who are under tremendous stress. Thankfully, we have, thus far, not seen any confirmed cases in our stable of companies. But we are not taking things for granted and there is heightened alert and awareness within the entire Group," he said.

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## **Background**

ComfortDelGro is one of the world's largest land transport companies with a total fleet size of over 41,600 buses, taxis and rental vehicles. We also run 83km of light and heavy rail networks in Singapore. Our global operations span seven countries – Singapore, Australia, China, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Vietnam and Malaysia.