

Legislative Council

Hansard

Wednesday 12 November 2025

The President, Mr Farrell, took the Chair at 11 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

[excerpt...]

School Bus Services - Consideration of Extending Kingston Route

Ms WEBB question to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE and TRANSPORT, Mr VINCENT

[2.42 p.m.]

Regarding school bus service within Spring Farm and Whitewater Park estates, which are in Kingston and part of my electorate, can you confirm that at the beginning of the 2025 school year the Department of State Growth engaged Wisby's Buses Pty Ltd to service Spring Farm and Whitewater Park estates for students at Kingston High and Kingston Primary schools, but unfortunately failed at the time to explore extending this new service to accommodate other non-government schools in the area, including St Aloysius Catholic College, which is attended by many children living in those suburbs?

Further, can you confirm that you've received correspondence from the college and parents, including supportive material from Wisby's Buses advising the company would be happy to implement a contract change as the required route change would add only an extra 7.6 kilometres each day, an additional four minutes to the current schedule, and could also accommodate children attending the Tarremah Steiner School nearby?

Given the demonstrated demand, the benefits, and the minimal impact of the current service, are you considering acting upon the request for a minor adjustment to the existing Kingston school bus route, and will you undertake to have done so in time for the commencement of the 2026 school year?

ANSWER

Mr President, I will seek some advice on that.

I will read some and then I have some other points that I'd like to add as well.

The Department of State Growth were not provided the opportunity to engage early on the Spring Farm and Whitewater Estate developments and were not able to provide advice on the public transport provision arrangements. The design of their estates makes it difficult to be serviced by public transport. State Growth is planning on installing new bus stops on the Channel Highway near Spring Farm Road to align with the planned shopping centre development, which will increase public transport access to estate residents and to existing Channel Highway bus routes.

However, service adjustments to divert existing Channel bus routes through the estates are not possible because of the significant disruption this would have on existing pasture and the highly integrated public transport network. The estates are currently serviced by two school bus routes to the Kingston Primary School, Kingston High School and Hobart College, as well

as nearby government schools. The department is currently progressing the Greater Hobart Bus Network Review, which includes consideration of how best to provide Spring Farm and Whitewater Park communities with access to public bus services.

I will add, that I think myself, and it might have been the member for Huon, when we had a chat earlier on the week, that we received substantial and well written letters from some of the association people down there pointing out some of these things, which have only just arrived to the office quite recently and we're still working our way through them.