

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No. (number) of 2026

Legislative Council

ASKED BY: Hon Meg Webb MLC

ANSWERED BY: Hon Kerry Vincent MLC, Minister for
Infrastructure and Transport

QUESTION:

Minister, my question goes to the matter of the provision of reliable school bus services, following the recent successful two-year campaign by a Gagebrook teenager to secure Friday bus services for his journey to school in Bridgewater.

Minister, is it government policy to provide reliable five day bus services on school routes?

Can you please detail how many current school bus routes, which primarily service state public schools, do not have a reliable five day week bus service, but instead require students to find alternative transport options for at least one day per week?

Lastly can you please explain why it is that there are school bus routes which do not provide a reliable five day per week service for school students?

ANSWER:

- The Department of State Growth contracts with approximately 90 bus operators to deliver over 300 school bus and specialist school bus services.

- The Service Eligibility Guidelines for School Bus Services, established under the *Passenger Transport Services Act 2011*, determine when services are to be contracted and how school bus routes and timetables are designed.
- State Growth works closely with bus operators and the Department for Education, Children and Young People to monitor student capacity and demand on both the school and general access school bus network and varies contracts where appropriate.
- School bus services are designed to provide regular services within intake areas, primarily for public school students, on weekdays during school terms.
- In addition to school bus services, State Growth contracts general access services across the State. These are designed to provide services for the broader community to travel for work, school and recreation.
- Metro Tasmania operates both dedicated school bus services and general access services, some of which connect with schools and provide a transport options for students.
- The particular service in your question is one of the latter and is not a dedicated school bus service.
- Weekday general access services provided by Metro currently operate according to 'Monday to Thursday' and 'Friday' timetables.
- The origin of this difference is because there are more services operated by Metro on Friday evenings.

- However, since Metro introduced temporary service adjustments in August 2023, in response to driver shortages, some Friday services were suspended even though they otherwise operated Monday to Thursday.
- Since August 2023 Metro has returned some suspended trips within their existing operational capacity.
- We are working towards more consistent Monday to Friday timetables as part of phase two of the Greater Hobart Bus Network Review.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Date:

23 MAR 2026