



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

#### ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by: Mr Mark Parton MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Transport

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 55]

In relation to: Breakdown of Transport Canberra operations staff in Budget paper H

Hearing Date: 05/08/2024

QTON lodgement date: 05/08/2024

Answer Due Date: 08/08/2024

**Mr PARTON:** Just briefly in regards this. The table on page 5 of budget paper H refers to staffing at Transport Canberra Operations and it refers to 1,006 FTE positions as of June 30. Can I get a breakdown—and I am assuming this is an on-notice question—but how many of those were employed as bus drivers, what is the breakdown between full-time, part-time and casual. I am not assuming that anyone can answer that off the bat.

**Mr Steel:** When? For what time period would you like?

**MR PARTON:** So I mean, the figure is 1,006 FTE positions as of 30 June 2024, so I am referring to that figure, and I am looking for a breakdown on how many are employees as bus drivers, what is the breakdown between full-time, part-time and casual. I would note that referring to the projection for positions for financial year 24-25 there is a suggestion that that number will fall from 1,006 to 989.

Given that staffing issues, as has been indicated in these hearings, hamper Transport Canberra's ability to deliver a full seven day network, how is a net loss of 17 FTE going to impact the network?

**Mr Steel:** There is also a footnote on that page which is worth noting as well, but I will hand over to Transport Canberra.

**Mr McHugh:** The 1,006 driver number was in response to an initiative that was funded in the previous budget for an extra 25 drivers. Through the recruitment process, I think we recruited 17 of those 25 and had them brought on to the books and so there was some that were not needed to deliver the current network reliably, and they were handed back. That is effectively how that number is impacted in the representation of the forecast in the out years.

**MR PARTON:** Mr McHugh, I am sorry I do not fully understand. There were 17 drivers that were not required so they were handed back; what do you mean?

**Mr McHugh:** No. There was 17 drivers that were recruited within that budget initiative, and a number of those that were not filled in that recruitment process, so we grew our driver numbers by I think it was 17 and the remaining eight were not needed to deliver the current network.

**Mr Steel:** It does not stop the government from making decisions about further network improvements and to consider what additional drivers might be required through additional budget appropriation to support extra services in the future, and of course there are efficiencies within the existing network that may be gained, particularly as a result of the commencement of the new Woden Bus Depot which, of course, may enable us to deliver more services with the drivers and bus fleet that we have.

**MR PARTON:** Excellent; thank you.

**Mr Chris Steel MLA:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The total headcount of Bus Operators as at the last pay period on 19 June 2024 was 932.

Detailed breakdown as follows:

| Bus Operators | Permanent | Temporary | Casual | Total |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Headcount     | 767       | 7         | 158    | 932   |

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 8/8/24

By the Minister for Transport, Chris Steel MLA