LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 46

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
JO CLAY MLA (CHAIR), SUZANNE ORR MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Jo Clay MLA: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services

TCCS AR 274

In relation to: Bus External Providers

TCCS made a $37 million procurement to Qcity for Special Needs and Supplementary Transport Services, why is this not being done by TC and if they are unable what is being done to enable this?

Why are private operators brought in to operate services when TC drivers could be doing so? What cost considerations are made in this process? Does this decrease the level of accountability of services and is the government losing the oversight it has when services are delivered in house?

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

The Special Needs Transport is managed by Transport Canberra (TC) and the service provision is shared between Transport Canberra (12 services) and Q-City (30 services). The style of shared service delivery has been in place in excess of more than 20 years.

The current contract with extension options utilised would mean the contract would be due to be tendered early 2026.

The ACT Government may seek to deliver the balance of the work at this time, however, would need to consider that at current day service levels an additional 33 buses would need to be purchased as well as the recruitment of 33 new drivers and 33 new attendants. A suitable depot and staff facilities would need to be identified.

There is no decrease in the level of accountability by TC through this contracting arrangement as the service responsibility and reporting of outcomes remains with TC.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services

Signature:

Date: 19/3/21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel MLA

Civic Square, London Circuit (GPO Box 1020) Canberra ACT 2601
T (02) 6205 0127 **E** committees@parliament.act.gov.au **W** www.parliament.act.gov.au

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