



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Friday 4 March 2022

Asked by Mark Parton MLA on 4 March 2022: Duncan Edghill took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Proof Transcript 4 March 2022, PAGE 14-15]

In relation to: Light Rail Woden to City maximum capacity

MR PARTON: Yes, I do, as it happens. And I am on page 25 and objective 1, which is to drive an increase in patronage, which is something that I think we are all keen to do. It is one of the strategic objectives to drive an increase in patronage with of course works expected to begin on stage 2B of light rail soon. The question I have got specifically is what will be the hourly maximum capacity of light rail services from Woden to Civic and given that we are, like, one LRV every six minutes, I am assuming that that answer is not going to be difficult to arrive at even within this hearing. What would be the hourly maximum capacity of light rail services from Woden to Civic?

Mr Steel: So I will hand over to Duncan Edghill and the team from MPC to give some details, but actually, the peak frequency in the morning is every five minutes headway for light rail, so they come very frequently and they have about four times the amount of capacity as a normal bus would do, so clearly this is a form of mass transit that we have not had before in Canberra and will support population growth that we are intending—that we will certainly—has already occurred in parts of Woden, but will certainly happen into the future as well, so I will hand over to MPC to provide some detail about the capacity.

Mr Edghill: Thank you. Duncan Edghill here. Of course, we have not finalised contracts for stage 2B and the ultimate answer to this question would depend upon what is contracted in terms of frequency and so forth and when we are talking about capacity, there would be a distinction to be made between system capacity, so what is the technical capacity of how many vehicles you could run at any one point in time versus capacity based upon a peak timetable.

MR PARTON: But—

Mr Edghill: But off the back of what the minister—sorry?

MR PARTON: No, you continue. I think you are heading in the direction I want you to.

Mr Edghill: Yes. So I probably would refrain from doing the maths in my head at the moment, but if we make an assumption about how many light rail vehicles there would be versus capacity of light rail vehicles and multiplied it out, you would be getting closer to the answer, but of course, you would also be having to take into account if we are talking Woden to the City both ways. I think I would want to take the exact question on notice, if I may, rather than attempting to do the maths in my head in—

MR PARTON: Yes. Look, and I appreciate that, Mr Edghill, and so yes, if you could take that on notice what will the hourly maximum capacity of light rail services from Woden to Civic be, so we are only talking in the one direction, but additionally, what I would like to know is what is the maximum hourly capacity of the full timetable bus services from Woden to Civic? And so I guess what I am talking about is pre-COVID and when we look at the capacity of those vehicles and that timetable, I would like to know what that figure is. And you know, I guess once we get those figures, we can all have a look at the expected capacity difference.

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

Canberra's Light Rail Vehicles have a capacity of 207 passengers per vehicle, this includes all seats (excluding tip-up seats) occupied and standing passengers at 4 passengers per m² as per the Australian standard.

Based on the current peak 5 minute headway service, this would provide capacity for 2484 passengers per hour.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date:

14/3/22

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