



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Mark Parton MLA: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services

Ref: TCCS Annual Report Page 22 - Highlights

In relation to: Services for New Suburbs

There have been several new suburbs and residential areas established with more coming online in the northern area of the Territory. As a result a bus service was commenced from Molonglo to Whitlam and onto Belconnen.

1. What consultation was undertaken with residents to determine their travel needs in terms of where they wanted to go and when they needed public transport?
2. How many vehicles have been allocated to this new route;
 - a. Given that no new vehicles have been procured for some time, where have the vehicles for this service come from?
 - b. What additional funding has TCCS received to provide this service?
 - c. How much additional FTE or contract staff has been provided for this new route?

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

1. The suburb of Whitlam was not populated at the time of network and route planning, therefore no consultation with residents of Whitlam was able to be undertaken. As part of the route planning process, Transport Canberra worked in collaboration with ACT Education to ensure the catchment schools of Belconnen High School and Evelyn Scott School in Denman Prospect were connected. Another key consideration in the route planning process for the new suburb of Whitlam was providing a link to the wider Rapid Network at key connection points in Belconnen and Denman Prospect.
2. Three additional buses are required to operate this new route.

a. and b. Funding for the procurement of additional buses and operational resourcing to support delivery of the Whitlam route was included in the 2021-22 Budget measure 'Growing the public transport network'.

c. 3.75 additional drivers have been funded to drive the additional buses required to service this new route in 2021-22 as the services commenced in February 2022. This increases to 7.5 additional drivers in 2022-23.

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

Signature:



Date:

18/3/22

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