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**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**

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

In relation to: COVID affected bus timetable and staffing concerns

1. When does Transport Canberra expect to restore weekend bus services to the promised seven day timetable with minimum 1-hour frequencies, as introduced in Network 19?
2. How many bus operators does Transport Canberra currently employ?
  - a. Can you please break this down by reference to category of operator under the EA (e.g. Full time straight shift, full time broken shift, part time straight shift, part time broken shift, casual).
3. How has Transport Canberra deployed the additional roughly hundred bus operators it has employed since June 2019?
  - a. How many does it need to return to the original 7 day timetable, including hourly weekend services.
4. Late last year, Transport Canberra Operations made a single year enterprise agreement, with a nominal expiry date of 31 October 2022.
  - a. Why did this have such a short period?
  - b. Is Transport Canberra seeking any structural changes which would allow it to better roster staff to ensure weekend coverage?
  - c. Will there still be any requirements that the TWU must agree to the new shifts?

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

1. Transport Canberra continues to work towards providing hourly local services on weekends in a phased approach. Phase one weekend uplift was introduced in 2020 which provides hourly services between 6am and 12pm on Saturdays. Transport Canberra is planning for the next phase of uplift, in the context of broader recent timetable changes and workforce availability challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Full Time = 535, Part Time = 282, Casual = 133 (Total 950)

- a. Transport Canberra Bus Operators are employed in three categories, full-time, part-time and casual. The categories under the Enterprise Agreement are related to network builds and the shifts within that network, not how the employee is engaged with Transport Canberra. The current interim network has the below shift make up:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Part Time Straight | 75  |
| Part Time Broken   | 70  |
| Full Time Straight | 368 |
| Full Time Broken   | 88  |

3. Transport Canberra recruitment to bus operator positions is dependent on the network in place. The recruitment of bus operators is carefully planned to ensure that natural attrition is addressed while also aligning recruitment activities to the resource requirements of upcoming networks.

- a. This information is not currently available. The exact driver numbers will be determined by the specific network scenario adopted by government, taking into account route changes due to growth of the city and associated run times.

4.

- a. The one year extension for the Transport Canberra Enterprise Agreement was in line with the rest of ACT Government Enterprise Agreements. The decision was made to extend the agreement for a period of one year due to COVID-19 impacting the negotiation phase in 2021.
- b. As part of ongoing Enterprise Agreement negotiations, Transport Canberra is considering all available options that can help improve weekend reliability.
- c. Requirement for union agreement on shifts is contained within the current Enterprise Agreement. The ACT Government complies with any Enterprise Agreement conditions applying at the time a network change is proposed.

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