



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Parton on 8 November 2022: Mr Ben McHugh took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 8 November 2022, Pages 99, 100

In relation to:

MR PARTON: Thank you, Chair. Minister, on page 25 of the annual reports it states that your priority is to increase public transport usage, can I ask, what is the current percentage of Canberrans that use public transport? And so, I am not asking for the number of trips or boardings, but the percentage of the population that use public transport over—well, over the reporting period or even over the five years, is that a figure that is—

Mr Steel: Yes, there are different metrics that we use for that, census is one source of information about the percentage of people using public transport and we have had, obviously, a recent update there. I can provide you with some information about that. But we are also undertaking a household travel survey, at the moment.

So it is in—we have been actively out there with our partner to survey Canberrans and households about their habits, the use of public transport is certainly part of that and that will give us a much deeper insight into how people are moving around the city and the typical, you know, typical day of travel.

But I will hand over to Transport Canberra to talk a little bit further about how we are collecting that data and using it.

Mr McHugh: Thanks, Ben McHugh, Deputy Director General, Transport Canberra and Business Services. So thanks for the question, that actual percentage is not something that we publish at this point in time but it is definitely a statistic that we could prepare and provide in a response to a question taken on notice. The statistics that we do—

MR PARTON: So are you taking that on notice, Mr McHugh?

Mr McHugh: Yes, absolutely

CHRIS STEEL MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Table 1 reports Transport Canberra unique MyWay card count and paper ticket transactions on the 10 August 2022. This data represents actual MyWay card tap on and tap off, plus paper tickets for that day. Together, this data suggests approximately 6.15% of Canberra's population catches public transport at any one time.

The total percentage of Canberrans who use public transport is expected to be higher than 6.15%, given a number of public transport users do not catch public transport every day and this sample is from a singular day.

Table 1. Unique Transport Canberra public transport users.

ACT Treasury estimate of ACT population on 31 March 2022	455,869
Count of unique MyWay cards used on 10 August 2022	27,322
Total paper tickets issued on 10 August 2022	693
	Total 28,015
% of unique public transport patronage as proportion of ACT population	6.15%

Paper ticket transactions do not distinguish between unique and repeat passengers on a given date and therefore presents a limitation to the data. Non-MyWay transaction counts exclude 'transfers' because transfers predominantly count passengers transferring onto second or later buses with a paper ticket.

The data does not include passengers who are eligible to travel for free without a MyWay card or paper ticket. It also excludes passengers on special needs transport services and flexible transport services.

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

Signature:



Date:

18/11/22

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