



Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 4 June 2019 regarding petitions 17-19 lodged by Miss C Burch MLA regarding bus services for school students.

I am pleased to advise that since the introduction of the new public transport network at the beginning of Term 2 2019. More than 223 dedicated school bus services and many thousands of other bus and light rail services are used by school students.

During Term 2 2019, the number of journeys made by school students on Transport Canberra services increased by 3.25%, equivalent to more than 25,000 extra journeys in just ten weeks.

While some students are changing buses more, this has been offset by other students who are now able to make a direct trip to or from school.

During Term 2 2019, about 74% of school students using public transport caught a single bus or light rail vehicle as part of their journey. In comparison, during the same period in 2018, this figure was 81%.

Of those students who do transfer, almost all change between buses or light rail vehicles just once, with less than 2.6% of school students journeys during the first ten weeks of the new network involving two or more transfers.

However, the ACT Government recognises that there have been significant changes for many families, and that there are further improvements which could be made to services. That is why Transport Canberra is working closely with schools, parent representatives, the Education Directorate and other key stakeholders to address specific concerns with services, infrastructure around schools or other issues relating to school travel.

To date, there have been more than 100 adjustments to bus services made since the commencement of the new network, and I have asked my directorate to focus in particular on services used by school students.

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### ACT Legislative Assembly

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The ACT Government is committed to continuing to invest in our public transport network and working with Canberrans to make practical improvements to the public transport services they rely on everyday.

Thank you for raising these matters. I hope the information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for Transport and City Services

20 AUG 2019