

Mr Tom Duncan

Clerk

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter of 3 September 2025 concerning petitions E-PET-042-25 and PET 053-25, lodged by Ms Jo Clay MLA regarding a designated school bus for Hawker College.

Transport Canberra operates 4,293 scheduled bus services every weekday, using a fleet of 456 buses to provide as much coverage as possible across our widely dispersed city. Student transport is managed through a combination of dedicated school bus services, and supplementary route services.

Hawker College has varying school finishing times across the school week, with bell times of 1:00pm, 2:30pm 2:40pm, and 3:20pm. This provides a challenge in managing student transport requirements as Transport Canberra operates a consistent timetable across all weekdays of the school term.

Transport Canberra applied service adjustments to route 45 in April 2025 to better align with Hawker College's varying bell times, and the current timetable maintains four additional afternoon services on route 45 on school days. A combination of inbound and outbound, these services operate to support students travelling to suburbs within Hawker College's priority enrolment area.

Following receipt of the petitions, Transport Canberra conducted in-person passenger observations on both Belconnen and Kippax-bound services passing Hawker College which align with the bell times. These observations confirmed passenger boardings on arrival and at departure from Hawker College were well within vehicle carrying capacity.

Additionally, the data showed that these services are also regularly used by other members of the community, reinforcing the value of maintaining the current arrangements for the broader community of public transport users.

Therefore, the review determined the existing services adequately support student travel needs and the introduction of a dedicated school service would not be an efficient use of available fleet and driver resources, noting upcoming network constraints and operational priorities.

Transport Canberra will continue to observe patronage trends across the network to understand the changing needs of the Canberra community.

Thank you for bringing the petitions to my attention and I trust the information provided is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport

25 November 2025