

Review of School Bus Services

Terms of Reference

Purpose

As part of a suite of election commitments to the non-government school sector, a Marshall Liberal Government committed to non-government school students having fair access to school buses in regional areas.

The commitment provided that a review of school bus services would inform the best mechanism for this, to be based on the principle that regional students should have reasonable access to transport as they do in the city.

A previous review undertaken in 2015 did not operate on this presumption.

Scope

Consistent with Minister Gardner's pre-election commitment outlined in correspondence to non-government school's representatives, the Terms of Reference will include to:

- assess the potential efficiency and effectiveness of the transfer of the school bus management function from the Department for Education (DE) to the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI);
- identify the options and implications of guaranteeing all students, within a specified area, a place on a school bus, including non-government school students;
- identify the implications of allowing existing buses on government school routes to make stops at non-government schools within the area of current routes, with consideration also given to broader routes. Currently, stops are only made at non-government schools if the bus passes it in the normal course of its route;
- identify the options and implications of allowing buses to be used for broader community uses other than regular school transport purposes; and
- consider any other matters deemed relevant.

Project Working Group

The review will be undertaken by a Project Working Group comprised of representatives from DE, DPTI and the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

A report will be completed for consideration by Cabinet.