

TRANSPERTH — ROUTE 15

864. Hon STEPHEN DAWSON to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When was the decision made to alter the number 15 bus route and on what basis was the decision made?
- (2) What consultation occurred around this decision and which groups or individuals were consulted?
- (3) Is the minister aware of the concerns of local residents opposed to the alteration of the route?
- (4) Does the minister agree that the decision may cause hardship to the elderly, people with disability and young students in the areas proposed to be removed from the route?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Following completion of the public consultation period on 27 February 2015, Transperth reviewed the submissions received and elected to proceed with the proposed changes to the route 15 bus service. The implementation date of the service revision was scheduled for 9 August 2015 to coincide with changes to other bus services within the Marmion contract area.
- (2) Transperth conducted consultation sessions with the community in February 2015, which included one session at Glendalough station on February 19 and two at The Mezz Shopping Centre on 19 and 21 February. The consultation process was advertised in *The Guardian Express* and *The Stirling Times*, as well as through Transperth's My Alerts system. A notice was posted on the Transperth website and poster/bulletins were made available on-board buses in the area. Letters were sent to the following: the City of Stirling, the City of Vincent, The Mezz Shopping Centre, TAFE Central, Leederville, School of Isolated Distance Education, Aranmore Catholic College, Aranmore Catholic Primary School, Bold Park Community School, Chrysalis Montessori School, Lake Monger Primary School, Mount Hawthorn Primary School, Mulberry Tree Child Care, Leederville Midwifery and Natural Childbirth Centre, Little Sisters of the Poor Aged Peoples Home, Leederville Gardens Retirement Estate and Lake View Lodge.

Feedback from the community strongly supported the extension of the route 15 bus service to Glendalough. Of the feedback pertaining to re-routing through Mt Hawthorn, only 18 per cent opposed re-routing, with the majority supporting option B, which is more direct than the current alignment, but still serves many of the same roads. Transperth followed community sentiment in choosing to implement the option B realignment through Mt Hawthorn. Despite the realignment, all existing route 15 passengers are within an acceptable walking distance of the re-routed service or alternative bus route. As with any service change, there is potential for existing travel patterns to be affected; however, the revised route offers more travel opportunities to the community as a whole.
- (3) Yes. The local member, Eleni Evangel, raised the matter directly with the Minister for Transport and the Public Transport Authority on behalf of her community. As a result of representations by the local member, Eleni Evangel, on behalf of her community, Transperth has introduced a new trial service, bus route 14. This bus route operates as a shuttle between existing bus stops and The Mezz Shopping Centre. The route 14 bus service commences on Brady Street and operates the existing route 15 bus service alignment to The Mezz Shopping Centre, where it terminates. It provides access to shops and direct connections to other Transperth services, including the new route 15 bus service. The route 14 bus service operates four times per week day in each direction.
- (4) Transperth makes in excess of 1 000 service changes every year to cater for the changing public transport demand in Perth.

A member interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Have you finished?

Hon JIM CHOWN: No; I have not finished; I am being interrupted here, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: I will not interrupt you.

Hon Ken Travers interjected.

Hon JIM CHOWN: I will start that answer again.

Transperth makes in excess of 1 000 service changes every year to cater for the changing public transport demand in Perth. Almost without exception, each change has the potential to negatively impact upon some passengers. Transperth recognises this fact and, for this very reason, proceeds to public consultation prior to

making wider-scale changes to ensure those impacts are understood. It should be noted that Transperth will only proceed with changes if there is an overall community benefit. The overwhelming majority of passengers affected by re-routing the route 15 bus service are within an acceptable walking distance of 500 metres to alternative services. This is a standard that applies elsewhere across the wider network and most other mass transit systems across the world.