

Department of State Growth

PASSENGER TRANSPORT DIVISION

Enquiries Andrew Kruup

Ph 6166 3296 Fax 6173 0260

Email andrew.kruup@stategrowth.tas.gov.au Web www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au



Dear Parents,

Proposed Redesign of Ulverstone Town Bus Services

The Department of State Growth has responsibility for contracting school bus services across Tasmania. As part of a recontracting process, the department has been reviewing bus services around the state to ensure that the contracted bus network meets school transport needs, is provided in a fair and equitable way across the state, and is sustainable.

The review has identified four Ulverstone town services in the area that heavily compete with one another for student patronage. This has resulted in an overextended and complex bus network where students can be travelling for up to 62 minutes around Ulverstone before arriving at their school. There are also a number of students who are currently interchanging at Ulverstone High. While it is sometimes necessary, interchanging creates more travel time for students as well as potential safety concerns, timing issues and confusion over which bus to board at the interchange point.

We have developed a proposal to redesign the Ulverstone town bus network by rerouting rural school bus services that come into Ulverstone to cater for the transport needs of students within the Ulverstone town area. All rerouted school bus services entering East Ulverstone will go to all schools in East Ulverstone, removing the need for most students to interchange at Ulverstone High school. Furthermore, the planned route for these services will be more direct, reducing travel times for Ulverstone students.

This change will mean that students will now need to walk a short distance to get to a bus stop and we realise this may be seen as an inconvenience by some existing users. However, the walk is usually very short and will mean faster, more direct services to schools.

Attached to this letter is a map illustrating the proposed routes in East and West Ulverstone that the rural school bus services will follow. I have also attached to this letter additional information detailing the proposal.

These routes have been discussed with the bus operators and the schools in the area and before a final decision is made in regard to the future of the services, I wish to give all affected parents/students the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions. If you wish to provide any comment/feedback please contact me on 6166 3296 by the 20th November 2017.

Subject to this consultation, we are proposing to implement these changes to the Ulverstone town service commencing at the start of the 2018 school year, and more information on timetables and bus stops will be provided before the end of the school year. The existing service will continue to operate for the remainder of the 2017 school year.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Kruup
POLICY ANALYST (PROJECT 2018)

6 November 2017

Outline of proposed changes to Ulverstone town bus services

The starting point for the proposed Ulverstone school bus network occurs at Ulverstone High school at approximately 8:20am and includes up to six available school buses. Prior to 8:20am each of these six buses will be servicing areas outside of Ulverstone, picking up students who are travelling to schools within Ulverstone. The timetables for these routes prior to 8:20am are likely to stay the same as they currently run. After arriving at Ulverstone High school, each of the six buses will travel along a route that is derived from the core route design depicted in attachment A. These routes are outlined in the following table:

Bus Number	Route Description
1	This bus will travel clockwise around the West Ulverstone Loop picking up West Ulverstone primary students and dropping them off at West Ulverstone Primary school at around 8:40am.
2	This bus will travel clockwise around the East Ulverstone Loop stopping at (in order) Sacred Heart, East Ulverstone Primary, Leighland Christian school, Ulverstone High and Ulverstone Primary.
3	This bus will travel clockwise around the East Ulverstone Loop stopping at (in order) Sacred Heart, East Ulverstone Primary, Leighland Christian school, Ulverstone High and Ulverstone Primary.
4	This bus will travel clockwise around the East Ulverstone Loop stopping at (in order) Sacred Heart, East Ulverstone Primary, Leighland Christian school, Ulverstone High and Ulverstone Primary.
5	This bus will travel anti-clockwise around the East Ulverstone Loop stopping at (in order) Leighland Christian school, Sacred Heart, East Ulverstone Primary, Ulverstone High and Ulverstone Primary.
6	This bus will travel anti-clockwise around the East Ulverstone Loop stopping at (in order) Leighland Christian school, Sacred Heart, East Ulverstone Primary, Ulverstone High and Ulverstone Primary.
7	This bus will travel anti-clockwise around the East Ulverstone Loop stopping at (in order) Leighland Christian school, Sacred Heart, East Ulverstone Primary, Ulverstone High and Ulverstone Primary.

In addition to these seven services, an eighth service will also be contracted to travel from West Ulverstone to all schools in East Ulverstone. This service will follow a similar route to the core route design depicted in attachment A.

It is important to note that although the proposal indicates that there will be more buses arriving at Ulverstone high school, this does not mean that more students will be interchanging between buses. In fact, we believe that the number of students transferring between buses will be negligible under the proposed network. As most buses will travel around the East Ulverstone loop, there is no need for East Ulverstone students to transfer between these buses. We expect that the only students transferring between buses at Ulverstone High school would be students travelling to West Ulverstone Primary.