

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

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Ms Jen Butler MP
Parliament House, Hobart, TAS 7000

11 MAY 2026

C/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Jen
Dear Ms Butler

In the House of Assembly on 26 March 2026, you asked the following:

My question is from Mark of Brighton: will the government be increasing capacity and frequency of bus services to get cars off the road, conserve fuel and provide cost-of-living relief to Tasmanians? Some 26 days since the start of the oil crisis, have you met with regional bus providers and Metro to develop a strategy? Metro report an increase in patronage from 130,266 customer journeys last week to 152,924 customer journeys this week: that is an increase of 17 per cent in a week. What plans do you have to acquire more buses to meet the pending public demand, and will you extend half-price bus fares beyond June of this year?

The Tasmanian Government is delivering cost-of-living relief where it counts, with free public transport for three months through until 1 July.

Passenger data from operators indicate a significant increase in numbers since free fares were introduced. These increases are across operators such as Kinetic, Tassielink and Derwent Ferries, as well Metro Tasmania. This measure is getting people to and from school and work free of charge, taking cars off our roads and helping save fuel.

Passengers across Greater Hobart are also benefitting from more reliable bus timetables from 3 May 2026, with updated schedules better reflecting travel times.

Our bus operators are monitoring increases in demand and, where required, services will be increased. However, existing buses and ferries have capacity to absorb increases in passenger numbers.

Metro Tasmania has enough operators to deliver services required, however recruitment work is always underway to ensure it continues to have sufficient drivers into the future.

As Mark is from Brighton, he may be interested to know a Sunday service has been introduced there from 3 May 2026, which matches the current Saturday timetable. This service reflects the high level of demand in this fast-growing region.

Thank you for your question and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport