TABLE TALK

AUSTRALASIAN TIMETABLE NEWS

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RAIL & TRAM NEWS

NATIONAL

Rail freight surges to re-stock shops

The rush to refill supermarket shelves following the coronavirus panic-buying pushed up interstate rail haulage by as much as 15 per cent, according to Pacific National (PN). PN's boss, Dean Dalla Valle, said that PN had been playing catch-up with additional runs across the Nullarbor and along the East Coast to cope with the unseasonal demand.

More the 60 per cent of goods imported into Western Australia come by rail, according to Mr Dalla Valle, and PN increased its services in the state by 15 per cent in the lead-up to the Easter weekend, with fresh fruit and vegetables from WA market gardens making up much of the return trade. Demand coming into Easter long weekend had increased its runs across the Nullarbor to more than 40 a week between Melbourne and Perth, while services to Brisbane had lifted by close to 10 per cent. He also said that while consumer goods had driven the surge in additional services, bulk coal and grain services were holding up well, but it was impossible to predict if freight and coal volumes would hold up in coming months.

A double-stacked train across the Nullarbor can be as long as 1.8km and haul more than 330 shipping containers. Each container can hold 25,000 rolls of toilet paper, 1,500 cases of beer or 65,000 Easter chocolate bunnies.

Aurizon and partner Linfox have also reported that freight deliveries into regional Queensland had lifted more than 20 per cent after the coronavirus outbreak.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Weekday rail timetable reductions

In light of significant reductions in patronage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, from 17 April, a small handful of weekday rail services have been temporarily removed from the timetable. Sydney Trains has cancelled an average of three physical trains which only operate in the morning and afternoon peak. The opportunity is being used by the maintenance team to undertake further maintenance. The cancelled services are on the T1, T2, T3 or T8 lines.

For the week of 27 April to 1 May, the following services were confirmed to not be operating:

- 06:37 Campbelltown to City Circle
- 07:09 Macarthur to City Circle
- 07:40 Circular Quay to Liverpool
- 07:57 St Marys to Gordon
- 08:19 Circular Quay to Ashfield
- 15:46 Liverpool to City Circle
- 16:54 Circular Quay to Campbelltown
- 17:52 Hornsby to Blacktown

CSELR final stage opens

The L3 Kingsford light rail line finally opened with minimal fanfare on Friday 3 April. It should be noted that L3 services were already operating in passenger service between Circular Quay and Central Chalmers Street since the opening of the L2 line in late 2019.

CSELR disruption

On the afternoon of Wednesday 22 April at around 13:45, CBD and South East light rail services were temporarily suspended along the entire L2 and L3 lines due to a reported tram with a mechanical issue at Town Hall. TransportInfo advised customers that "trams were being held at platforms. Catch a train or regular bus service instead".

It is unclear why the entire line was suspended rather than just the section between Central and Circular Quay. Within an hour or two, services resumed operating at a reduced frequency.

Newcastle LR disruption

A hotel fire on Hunter Street forced the closure of the Newcastle Light Rail line for over four days from Sunday, 7 April. A bus replacement service was organised.

Newcastle LR cracks found

Updating this story from April's *Table Talk*, the Newcastle Light Rail line had operations suspended for a whole week from 20-26 April to enable the reported defects to be fixed. Replacement buses were organised to operate along King and Hunter Streets. The works enabled the temporary track speed restrictions at Newcastle Interchange, Worth Place, Civic station and Mereweather Street to be lifted.

Catch-up time

On the afternoon of Thursday 23 April, a NSW TrainLink Gosford passenger service suffered a 15 minute delay at Milsons Point due to door issues. Following rectification, although four stops were then skipped between North Sydney and Chatswood, the train was able to gain almost another 10 minutes in time between Chatswood and Hornsby leading the train to be only one minute late on departure from Hornsby. The timetabled and actual times follow:

Station	Timetabled	Actual	Lateness
Wynyard	17:04	17:04	-
Milsons Point	17:08	17:23	15
North Sydney	17:11	17:27	16
Waverton	17:13	17:28 *	15
Wollstonecraft	17:15	17:29 *	14
St Leonards	17:18	17:31 *	13
Artarmon	17:21	17:32 *	11
Chatswood	17:24	17:34	10
Gordon	17:32	17:40	8
Hornsby	17:48	17:49	1

* stops skipped.

As the train skipped stops, it is counted as a cancelled peak service for statistical purposes for the operator. But it shows what can be achieved on a clear run down the shore without local suburban trains trundling along in front of you.

Sydney Trains fleet renewal

Transport for NSW has released an Expressions Of Interest with Tenders NSW for parties interested in acquiring V, K and C Set carriages or components ahead of their upcoming decommissioning.

V Set trains will be replaced by the new D Set train (aka 'NIF') which are now being progressively produced and tested.

Sydney Trains will commission another 21 B Set trains into service by 2021 then later on will receive a transfer of H Set rollingstock which will be displaced by the back end of the D Set delivery.

After this process, Sydney's oldest trains will be the T Set (Tangara) which are currently undergoing a slower than anticipated refurbishment/renewal to last until their expected decommissioning in the 2030s.

Following the completion of both the refurbishment and D Set delivery, all trains within the Sydney Trains fleet will have CCTV and internal passenger information screens.

Future rail freight concern

Following on from this article from April, the Nationals political party have advised through their website that the proposed changes in EPA standards have now been stopped. Minister for Regional NSW, John Barilaro, said 'if the proposal was to proceed, companies like SSR [with a fleet of 63 locomotives], would be left with only two [remaining] locomotives. It would cost $20 million for the business to alter the remaining fleet'. Minister of Agriculture, Adam Marshall, said "The proposed changes would have increased the cost of freighting grain on average by $13-15 per tonne. It's great that a common sense approach has been agreed to, and that the EPA and industry will work together on this issue moving forward".

VICTORIA

Patronage slumps

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public transport usage reportedly dropped by 90 per cent by the end of March. Meanwhile, operators such as Metro Trains are reportedly losing between 8 and 12 million dollars a week due to the corresponding fall in fare revenue. Negotiations are ongoing with the state government.

HCMT testing

Throughout the week of 19-23 April, V/Line advised of late night High Capacity Metro Train (HCMT) testing underway between Dandenong and Pakenham. As a result, road coaches replaced selected trains between Southern Cross and Traralgon.

Wyndham Vale yard opens

The new stabling yard at Wyndham Vale, on the Geelong line, opened in April. The yard is being used to stable V/Locity trains operated by V/Line and the Department of Transport. The stabling yard forms part of the wider level crossing removal project.

Govt appoints expansion consultants

The state government's Rail Projects Victoria has appointed Arup and Deutsche Bahn to consult on expanding the rail network. Arup will be a "rail operations planning advisor" while Deutsche Bahn

brings access to 'best practice' T and rail delivery expertise. The expenditure by taxpayers on this contract is unclear.

Rail Projects Victoria says that this advisory contract would support the design of an optimised network and meet the future needs of rail users.

The Overland patronage steady

The Overland, which operated between Melbourne and Adelaide until COVID-19 forced its suspension, has reportedly seen steady patronage numbers in the last few years. Great Southern Rail operated two services each week. Annual patronage numbers follow:

FY	Trips
2016/17	16,771
2017/18	17,965
2018/19	17,254

The operator said that all but 1,000 trips each year went across the state border. The remainder were within Victoria.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Patronage plunges

State government-released numbers show that by the end of March, patronage on public transport had plunged after travel restrictions imposed over the COVID-19 threat. Train patronage on Adelaide Metro services slumped by 74 per cent, tram patronage recorded the biggest fall at 77 per cent and bus patronage fell by 69 per cent compared to the period in 2019.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Temporary service reductions

State government restrictions caused by COVID-19 and the resultant drop in patronage led to a reduction in public transport services from Sunday 6 April. The service reduction will be in force until at least 26 April. Transperth said it was continuing to support essential workers, while also trying to reduce the exposure of front-line staff to infections, while also maintaining the ability for remaining passengers to practise social-distancing on services with fewer people.

From Mondays to Saturdays, Transperth train services now operate to a daily Saturday timetable.

Below is a list of the remaining Prospector, Australind and AvonLink services operating on weekdays:

The Prospector

- PA01 07:10 East Perth to Kalgoorlie
- PA02 07:05 Kalgoorlie to East Perth

Australind

- B02 06:00 Bunbury to Perth City
- B55 17:55 Perth City to Bunbury

AvonLink

- AV02 06:30 Northam to Midland
- AV01 17:50 Midland to Northam

Patronage plummets

March saw Perth's public transport patronage plummet by up to 85 per cent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire month saw a 21 per cent drop in trips taken month-to-month with the lowest figure since January 2017.

Digital train radio upgrade

The Huawei and UGL consortium that won the tender for the $206 million contract to design, build and maintain a new train radio system for Perth's metropolitan network in 2018 is now re-negotiating with the state government following US-imposed trade restrictions on Huawei's activities in August 2019. Reportedly, at least some of those restrictions would have been breached by continuing with the initial project contract. The state government remains committed to working with the consortium on finding another arrangement.

Forrestfield Airport-Link

The state government announced that tunnelling work on the Forrestfield Airport-Link was completed on 20 April after two-and-a-half years. Station construction and infrastructure layout across the line is continuing.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland real-time data

Auckland Transport's transport application, AT Mobile, now shows real-time train and bus capacity data. The data is derived from passenger use of the HOP Card.

NEW: Live occupancy status

Due to COVID-19, we have limited the capacity of our vehicles to help you maintain 2m physical distancing. Use this status to understand how much space is available.

ᴉᴉᴉᴉ Likely empty

ᴉᴉᴉᴉ Likely space available

ᴉᴉᴉᴉ Likely near the limit of safe distancing

ᴉᴉᴉᴉ Likely not accepting passengers

Images above sourced from Auckland Transport.

Auckland patronage plunges

COVID-19 measures have led to Auckland's patronage plunging by up to 97 per cent, according to Auckland Transport. With new level 4 restrictions, on Thursday 26 March, some ferry services registered only 0.9 per cent of the trips from the same day one year earlier. Total public transport patronage for that day had only 3.3 per cent of the patronage levels registered one year earlier.

Services through the lockdown are operating to a weekend timetable.

Auckland Council's chief executive, Stephen Town, reportedly with access to a $1 billion line of credit, if required, said, "there's no cause for concern. We have had very robust arrangements in place for a very long time" with a credit rating only second to the national government.

Wellington resumes normal services

In light of New Zealand's dropping of its COVID-19 restrictions from level 4 to level 3, Metlink announced that it would resume normal timetables from Monday 4 May on its train system, while buses resumed normal services on Sunday 26 April. Trips will continue to be free during level 3, while Metlink reinforced its request for passengers to use their Snapper cards to ensure they could accurately monitor patronage levels across the transport network.

Fares will be reviewed either by June 30 or when the restrictions drop to level 2, whichever occurs first.

INTERNATIONAL

US freight haulage declines

The month of March saw a 9.3 per cent reduction in railroad traffic across the United States, compared to March 2019, as COVID-19 ramped up its effect on the economy.

However, some categories showed positive growth while others declined. Both chemicals and petrol grew by an average 4 per cent, while coal and vehicles/parts dropped by 16 per cent.

Association of American Railroads senior vice-president, John T Gray, said "numbers confirm that the coronavirus is taking a toll on the economy".

Euro operators expand freight service

German rail service operator, Deutsche Bahn (DB), has expanded the product lines that it is transporting on its freight transport services after COVID-19 left its freight trains with as much as 30 per cent unused capacity. DB is now transporting the likes of pastry wares and toilet paper. DB also continues to operate its passenger services despite a fall in patronage by over 80 per cent.

Meanwhile, Green Cargo freight trains which usually operate between Sweden and Belgium for Volvo Group, have been returned after initially being suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak. Since Easter, the trains have run to transport food and other essential goods into Sweden for Swedish grocery retailer ICA. Green Cargo chief executive officer, Ted Soderholm, said "rail is a key societal function even in normal conditions, and the situation right now really highlights how important continued rail shipments are for all goods and industrial supply chains all over Europe".

Denmark-Germany rail link approval

The European Commission (EC) has approved the financial arrangements for the Fehmarn Belt project which involves the building of a 19 kilometre undersea tunnel between Denmark and Germany. The tunnel will contain a double track electrified railway and a four-lane motorway.

Whilst initial approval was given back in 2015, a Danish ferry operator appealed this with the European Union's General Court which resulted in the EC needing to formally investigate the Danish funding arrangements in closer detail. The completion of this investigation now paves the way for progress on the contract to continue.

HS2 project approved

The British government has approved the start of construction on the HS2 project with stage one between London Euston and Birmingham due for completion between 2028 and 2031. The government

has remained committed to the project despite budgetary pressures caused by the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown measures.

Thanks to Ross Morrison, Dale Budd, Len Regan, David Whiteford, ABC News, Sydney Trains, *The Australian* newspaper, *The Nationals* political party, Newcastle Herald, The Age, Level Crossings Removal Project, The Construction Index News, Murray Valley Standard, Transperth, Public Transit Authority of WA, PerthNow, *metronet.wa.gov.au*, Auckland Transport, Auckland Council, *stuff.co.nz*, Deutsche Welle, Railway Gazette, Railway Track and Structures, European Commission, and BBC News for *Rail & Tram News*.

BUS & COACH NEWS

NATIONAL

Murrays, Greyhound and Firefly suspend services

Interstate coach operators have had their business decimated by the various COVID-19 related state and territory shutdowns.

Murrays coach services have been suspended on the Sydney to Canberra, Melbourne to Sydney and Brisbane to Toowoomba routes since 27 March until further notice. Travellers that had made future bookings on these routes will be issued a travel credit available for the remainder of the year. It is noted that cross-border routes 'Canberra to Wollongong' and 'Canberra to Narooma' continue to operate.

From 2 April, all **Firefly** services were suspended. Call centre hours have also been reduced to 09:00-17:00 only on weekdays, while the company advises that email responses will take up to 72 hours due to high traffic volume. All tickets for travel up to 30 April inclusive have been changed to an 'open dated ticket' which can be used at a later time.

After almost coming to a complete standstill by suspending 402 out of 420 weekly coach services across Australia, **Greyhound** announced it was standing down 244 out of its 537 employees and was also waiting on the federal government to reply to its request for financial assistance. From 14 April, the remaining Greyhound services consisted of 'Adelaide to Alice Springs', 'Alice Springs to Darwin', 'Darwin to Broome' and 'Rockhampton to Longreach'.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Route number changes

From Sunday 3 May, all express and 'limited stops' route services in the Northern Beaches region, operated by State Transit, will be renumbered as follows:

- **E50** *Milsons Point to Manly via Sydney Rd* - renumbered as 150X
- **E54** *Milsons Point to Mona Vale* - renumbered 154X
- **E60** *Chatswood to Mona Vale* - renumbered 160X
- **E65** *Wynyard to South Curl Curl* - renumbered 165X
- **E66** *Wynyard to Skyline Shops via Allambie Heights* - renumbered 166X
- **E68** *Wynyard to North Balgowlah* - renumbered 168X
- **E69** *Wynyard to Narraweena* - renumbered 169X
- **E70** *Wynyard to Manly via Sydney Rd* - renumbered 170X
- **E71** *Wynyard to Manly via Balgowlah Heights* - renumbered 171X
- **E75** *Wynyard to Warringah Mall via Balgowlah Shops* - renumbered 175X
- **E76** *Wynyard to Dee Why via Griffin Rd* - renumbered 176X
- **E77** *Wynyard to Dee Why via Parr Ave* - renumbered 177X
- **E78** *Wynyard to Cromer Heights* - renumbered 178X
- **E79** *Wynyard to Wheeler Heights* - renumbered 179X
- **E80** *Wynyard to Collaroy Plateau* - renumbered 180X
- **E83** *Wynyard to Elanora Heights* - renumbered 183X
- **E85** *Wynyard to Mona Vale via Warriewood* - renumbered 185X
- **E88** *Wynyard to North Avalon* - renumbered 188X
- **E89** *Wynyard to Avalon via Bilgola Plateau* - renumbered 189X
- **L90** *Wynyard to Palm Beach* - renumbered 190X

VICTORIA

Patronage has slumped by up to 90 per cent in recent weeks due to COVID-19 travel restrictions with many people working from home. However, the state government indicated that at this stage there will be no reduction in service frequencies on bus routes across the state. Many companies such as CDC Victoria and Dyson's have implemented measures such as rear-door boarding and taping off access to seats immediately behind the driver. During this time with significant drops in traffic on the roads, buses are running almost to time on every service with extra dwell time being made at key stops to avoid excess early running.
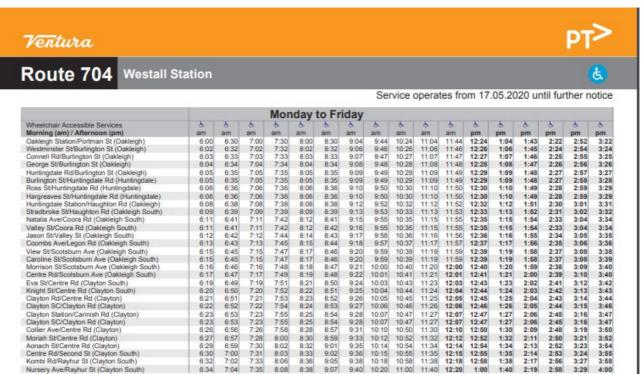
Some good news: extension of route 704

From Sunday 17 May, one of Melbourne's more interesting routes 'Oakleigh to Clayton via Centre Road' will now be extended about 1.5 kilometres to Westall station to form a new route 'Oakleigh to Westall via Clayton'. The service will also now operate on Sundays. Ventura will operate the route from its Centre Road depot.

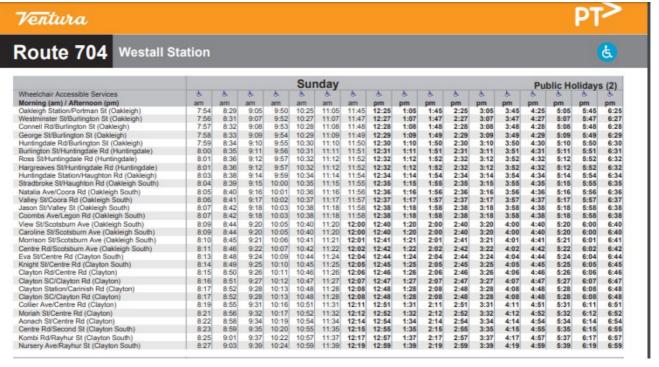Services will be increased to the following minimum standards:

- **Weekday** departures ex Oakleigh from 06:00 then every 30 minutes to 09:04 then every 40 minutes to 14:22 then every 30 minutes to 18:51 then every 40 minutes to 21:31. A one-way trip generally takes 34-38 minutes.

- **Saturday** services commence from Oakleigh at 07:14 then 07:54, 08:29, 09:10, 09:51, 10:25 then every 40 minutes until 19:05 then 19:39, 20:09, 20:34 and 21:04.

- **Sunday** services commence at 07:54 and run to the same timetable as Saturday.

Ventura — Route 704 — Westall Station — PT>
Service operates from 17.05.2020 until further notice

Monday to Friday — Wheelchair Accessible Services — Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)

Stop	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Oakleigh Station/Portman St (Oakleigh)	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:04	9:44	10:24	11:04	11:44	12:24	1:04	1:43	2:22	2:52	3:22
Westminster St/Burlington St (Oakleigh)	6:02	6:32	7:02	7:32	8:02	8:32	9:06	9:46	10:26	11:06	11:46	12:26	1:06	1:45	2:24	2:54	3:24
Connell Rd/Burlington St (Oakleigh)	6:03	6:33	7:03	7:33	8:03	8:33	9:07	9:47	10:27	11:07	11:47	12:27	1:07	1:46	2:25	2:55	3:25
George St/Burlington St (Oakleigh)	6:04	6:34	7:04	7:34	8:04	8:34	9:08	9:48	10:28	11:08	11:48	12:28	1:08	1:47	2:26	2:56	3:26
Huntingdale Rd/Burlington St (Oakleigh)	6:05	6:35	7:05	7:35	8:05	8:35	9:09	9:49	10:29	11:09	11:49	12:29	1:09	1:48	2:27	2:57	3:27
Burlington St/Huntingdale Rd (Huntingdale)	6:05	6:35	7:05	7:35	8:05	8:35	9:09	9:49	10:29	11:09	11:49	12:29	1:09	1:48	2:27	2:58	3:28
Ross St/Huntingdale Rd (Huntingdale)	6:06	6:36	7:06	7:36	8:06	8:36	9:10	9:50	10:30	11:10	11:50	12:30	1:10	1:49	2:28	2:59	3:29
Hargreaves St/Huntingdale Rd (Huntingdale)	6:06	6:36	7:06	7:36	8:06	8:36	9:10	9:50	10:30	11:10	11:50	12:30	1:10	1:49	2:28	2:59	3:29
Huntingdale Station/Haughton Rd (Oakleigh)	6:08	6:38	7:08	7:38	8:08	8:38	9:12	9:52	10:32	11:12	11:52	12:32	1:12	1:51	2:30	3:01	3:31
Stradbroke St/Haughton Rd (Oakleigh South)	6:09	6:39	7:09	7:39	8:09	8:39	9:13	9:53	10:33	11:13	11:53	12:33	1:13	1:52	2:31	3:02	3:32
Natalia Ave/Coora Rd (Oakleigh South)	6:11	6:41	7:11	7:42	8:12	8:41	9:15	9:55	10:35	11:15	11:55	12:35	1:15	1:54	2:33	3:04	3:34
Valley St/Coora Rd (Oakleigh South)	6:11	6:41	7:11	7:42	8:12	8:42	9:16	9:55	10:35	11:15	11:55	12:35	1:15	1:54	2:33	3:04	3:34
Jason St/Valley St (Oakleigh South)	6:12	6:42	7:12	7:44	8:14	8:43	9:17	9:56	10:36	11:16	11:56	12:36	1:16	1:55	2:34	3:05	3:35
Coombs Ave/Legon Rd (Oakleigh South)	6:13	6:43	7:13	7:45	8:15	8:44	9:18	9:57	10:37	11:17	11:57	12:37	1:17	1:56	2:35	3:06	3:36
View St/Scotsburn Ave (Oakleigh South)	6:15	6:45	7:15	7:47	8:17	8:46	9:20	9:59	10:39	11:19	11:59	12:39	1:19	1:58	2:37	3:08	3:38
Caroline St/Scotsburn Ave (Oakleigh South)	6:15	6:45	7:15	7:47	8:17	8:46	9:20	9:59	10:39	11:19	11:59	12:39	1:19	1:58	2:37	3:08	3:39
Morrison St/Scotsburn Ave (Oakleigh South)	6:16	6:46	7:16	7:48	8:18	8:47	9:21	10:00	10:40	11:20	12:00	12:40	1:20	1:59	2:38	3:09	3:40
Centre Rd/Scotsburn Ave (Oakleigh South)	6:17	6:47	7:17	7:49	8:19	8:48	9:22	10:01	10:41	11:21	12:01	12:41	1:21	2:00	2:39	3:10	3:40
Eva St/Centre Rd (Clayton South)	6:19	6:49	7:19	7:51	8:21	8:50	9:24	10:03	10:43	11:23	12:03	12:43	1:23	2:02	2:41	3:12	3:42
Knight St/Centre Rd (Clayton South)	6:20	6:50	7:20	7:52	8:22	8:51	9:25	10:04	10:44	11:24	12:04	12:44	1:24	2:03	2:42	3:13	3:43
Clayton Rd/Centre Rd (Clayton)	6:21	6:51	7:21	7:53	8:23	8:52	9:26	10:05	10:45	11:25	12:05	12:45	1:25	2:04	2:43	3:14	3:44
Clayton SC/Clayton Rd (Clayton)	6:22	6:52	7:22	7:54	8:24	8:53	9:27	10:06	10:46	11:26	12:06	12:46	1:26	2:05	2:44	3:15	3:46
Clayton Station/Carinish Rd (Clayton)	6:23	6:53	7:23	7:55	8:25	8:54	9:28	10:07	10:47	11:27	12:07	12:47	1:27	2:06	2:45	3:16	3:47
Clayton SC/Clayton Rd (Clayton)	6:23	6:53	7:23	7:55	8:25	8:54	9:28	10:07	10:47	11:27	12:07	12:47	1:27	2:06	2:45	3:16	3:47
Collier Ave/Centre Rd (Clayton)	6:26	6:56	7:26	7:58	8:28	8:57	9:31	10:10	10:50	11:30	12:10	12:50	1:30	2:09	2:48	3:19	3:50
Moriah St/Centre Rd (Clayton)	6:27	6:57	7:28	8:00	8:30	8:59	9:33	10:12	10:52	11:32	12:12	12:52	1:32	2:11	2:50	3:21	3:52
Aonach St/Centre Rd (Clayton)	6:29	6:59	7:30	8:02	8:32	9:01	9:35	10:14	10:54	11:34	12:14	12:54	1:34	2:13	2:52	3:23	3:54
Centre Rd/Second St (Clayton South)	6:30	7:00	7:31	8:03	8:33	9:02	9:36	10:15	10:55	11:35	12:15	12:55	1:35	2:14	2:53	3:24	3:55
Kombi Rd/Rayhur St (Clayton South)	6:32	7:02	7:33	8:06	8:36	9:05	9:38	10:18	10:58	11:38	12:18	12:58	1:38	2:17	2:56	3:27	3:58
Nursery Ave/Rayhur St (Clayton South)	6:34	7:04	7:35	8:08	8:38	9:07	9:40	10:20	11:00	11:40	12:20	1:00	1:40	2:19	2:58	3:29	4:00

Extract of weekday timetable (source: PTV).

Ventura — Route 704 — Westall Station — PT>

Saturday — Public Holidays (1) — Wheelchair Accessible Services — Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)

Stop	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Oakleigh Station/Portman St (Oakleigh)	7:14	7:54	8:29	9:10	9:51	10:25	11:05	11:45	12:25	1:05	1:45	2:25	3:05	3:45	4:25	5:05	5:45
Westminster St/Burlington St (Oakleigh)	7:16	7:56	8:31	9:12	9:53	10:27	11:07	11:47	12:27	1:07	1:47	2:27	3:07	3:47	4:27	5:07	5:47
Connell Rd/Burlington St (Oakleigh)	7:17	7:57	8:32	9:13	9:54	10:28	11:08	11:48	12:28	1:08	1:48	2:28	3:08	3:48	4:28	5:08	5:48
George St/Burlington St (Oakleigh)	7:18	7:58	8:33	9:14	9:55	10:29	11:09	11:49	12:29	1:09	1:49	2:29	3:09	3:49	4:29	5:09	5:49
Huntingdale Rd/Burlington St (Oakleigh)	7:19	7:59	8:34	9:15	9:56	10:30	11:10	11:50	12:30	1:10	1:50	2:30	3:10	3:50	4:30	5:10	5:50
Burlington St/Huntingdale Rd (Huntingdale)	7:20	8:00	8:35	9:16	9:57	10:31	11:11	11:51	12:31	1:11	1:51	2:31	3:11	3:51	4:31	5:11	5:51
Ross St/Huntingdale Rd (Huntingdale)	7:21	8:01	8:36	9:17	9:58	10:32	11:12	11:52	12:32	1:12	1:52	2:32	3:12	3:52	4:32	5:12	5:52
Hargreaves St/Huntingdale Rd (Huntingdale)	7:21	8:01	8:36	9:17	9:58	10:32	11:12	11:52	12:32	1:12	1:52	2:32	3:12	3:52	4:32	5:12	5:52
Huntingdale Station/Haughton Rd (Oakleigh)	7:23	8:03	8:38	9:19	10:00	10:34	11:14	11:54	12:34	1:14	1:54	2:34	3:14	3:54	4:34	5:14	5:54
Stradbroke St/Haughton Rd (Oakleigh South)	7:24	8:04	8:39	9:20	10:01	10:35	11:15	11:55	12:35	1:15	1:55	2:35	3:15	3:55	4:35	5:15	5:55
Natalia Ave/Coora Rd (Oakleigh South)	7:25	8:05	8:40	9:21	10:02	10:36	11:16	11:56	12:36	1:16	1:56	2:36	3:16	3:56	4:36	5:16	5:56
Valley St/Coora Rd (Oakleigh South)	7:26	8:06	8:41	9:22	10:03	10:37	11:17	11:57	12:37	1:17	1:57	2:37	3:17	3:57	4:37	5:17	5:57
Jason St/Valley St (Oakleigh South)	7:27	8:07	8:42	9:23	10:04	10:38	11:18	11:58	12:38	1:18	1:58	2:38	3:18	3:58	4:38	5:18	5:58
Coombs Ave/Legon Rd (Oakleigh South)	7:27	8:07	8:42	9:23	10:04	10:38	11:18	11:58	12:38	1:18	1:58	2:38	3:18	3:58	4:38	5:18	5:58
View St/Scotsburn Ave (Oakleigh South)	7:29	8:09	8:44	9:25	10:06	10:40	11:20	12:00	12:40	1:20	2:00	2:40	3:20	4:00	4:40	5:20	6:00
Caroline St/Scotsburn Ave (Oakleigh South)	7:29	8:09	8:44	9:25	10:06	10:40	11:20	12:00	12:40	1:20	2:00	2:40	3:20	4:00	4:40	5:20	6:00
Morrison St/Scotsburn Ave (Oakleigh South)	7:30	8:10	8:45	9:26	10:07	10:41	11:21	12:01	12:41	1:21	2:01	2:41	3:21	4:01	4:41	5:21	6:01
Centre Rd/Scotsburn Ave (Oakleigh South)	7:31	8:11	8:46	9:27	10:08	10:42	11:22	12:02	12:42	1:22	2:02	2:42	3:22	4:02	4:42	5:22	6:02
Eva St/Centre Rd (Clayton South)	7:33	8:13	8:48	9:29	10:10	10:44	11:24	12:04	12:44	1:24	2:04	2:44	3:24	4:04	4:44	5:24	6:04
Knight St/Centre Rd (Clayton South)	7:34	8:14	8:49	9:30	10:11	10:45	11:25	12:05	12:45	1:25	2:05	2:45	3:25	4:05	4:45	5:25	6:05
Clayton Rd/Centre Rd (Clayton)	7:35	8:15	8:50	9:31	10:12	10:46	11:26	12:06	12:46	1:26	2:06	2:46	3:26	4:06	4:46	5:26	6:06
Clayton SC/Clayton Rd (Clayton)	7:36	8:16	8:51	9:32	10:13	10:47	11:27	12:07	12:47	1:27	2:07	2:47	3:27	4:07	4:47	5:27	6:07
Clayton Station/Carinish Rd (Clayton)	7:37	8:17	8:52	9:33	10:14	10:48	11:28	12:08	12:48	1:28	2:08	2:48	3:28	4:08	4:48	5:28	6:08
Clayton SC/Clayton Rd (Clayton)	7:37	8:17	8:52	9:33	10:14	10:48	11:28	12:08	12:48	1:28	2:08	2:48	3:28	4:08	4:48	5:28	6:08
Collier Ave/Centre Rd (Clayton)	7:39	8:19	8:55	9:36	10:17	10:51	11:31	12:11	12:51	1:31	2:11	2:51	3:31	4:11	4:51	5:31	6:11
Moriah St/Centre Rd (Clayton)	7:41	8:21	8:56	9:37	10:18	10:52	11:32	12:12	12:52	1:32	2:12	2:52	3:32	4:12	4:52	5:32	6:12
Aonach St/Centre Rd (Clayton)	7:42	8:22	8:58	9:39	10:20	10:54	11:34	12:14	12:54	1:34	2:14	2:54	3:34	4:14	4:54	5:34	6:14
Centre Rd/Second St (Clayton South)	7:43	8:23	8:59	9:40	10:21	10:55	11:35	12:15	12:55	1:35	2:15	2:55	3:35	4:15	4:55	5:35	6:15
Kombi Rd/Rayhur St (Clayton South)	7:45	8:25	9:01	9:42	10:23	10:57	11:37	12:17	12:57	1:37	2:17	2:57	3:37	4:17	4:57	5:37	6:17
Nursery Ave/Rayhur St (Clayton South)	7:47	8:27	9:03	9:44	10:25	10:59	11:39	12:19	12:59	1:39	2:19	2:59	3:39	4:19	4:59	5:39	6:19

Extract of Saturday timetable (source: PTV).

Extract of Sunday timetable (source: PTV).

SkyBus

COVID-19 travel restrictions and the resultant downturn in aviation travel has led to SkyBus reducing their flagship 'Southern Cross station to Tullamarine' service frequency to every 15 minutes 'on demand' between 06:00 and 18:00 daily. The 'Docklands to Tullamarine' service is now operating to a weekend timetable seven days a week.

TASMANIA

Cashless continues

The state government announced that its cashless bus boarding and fare amnesty would be extended from 10 April until 31 May.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Coronavirus

From 4 April, the JIX airport express bus, 98A, 98C, 99A and 99C City Connector services and After Midnight services were suspended.

Meanwhile, intrastate coach operator Premier Stateliner has been hit hard with the travel restrictions and as a result services have been reduced significantly across the board.

From 30 March, Coachfreight services were suspended.

From 1 April, new temporary timetables came into effect which reduced services across the network as follows:

- Adelaide to Ceduna reduced to once weekly on Mondays ex Adelaide returning from Ceduna on Tuesdays.

- Whyalla – Port Augusta – Port Pirie – Adelaide reduced to departures ex Whyalla at 09:00 (Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri), 11:47 (Tues and Sat) and 14:12 (Tues); and ex Adelaide at 08:30 (Mon, Wed, Fri) and 16:30 (Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri).

- Port Lincoln to Adelaide on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday ex Port Lincoln; and Mon, Wed and Fri ex Adelaide.

- Renmark to Adelaide service day return on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday ex Renmark.

- Mount Gambier to Adelaide running Monday, Wednesday and Friday via Bordertown ex Adelaide returning to Adelaide the next day. The coastal service via Robe runs on Thursdays ex Adelaide and Fridays ex Mount Gambier.

All other services have been suspended.

New network consultation delayed

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 threat, planned consultation and implementation of new bus network routes and timetables has been indefinitely delayed.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Temporary service changes

State government restrictions caused by COVID-19 and the resultant patronage drop led to public transport services being reduced from **Sunday 6 April**. From Mondays to Saturdays, bus services operated to the Saturday timetable, while CAT services ran to a reduced frequency.

In exception to the above, the following routes operated to an altered (i.e.: reduced frequency) weekday timetable as they have no Saturday timetable:

- **Route 96** Leederville to UWA
- **201** Cannington to Curtin Uni
- **208** Cannington to Murdoch
- **293** Perth to Kewdale
- **307** Midland to Helena Valley
- **340** Bassendean to Caversham
- **344** Morley to Warwick (Workpower, Malaga diversion)
- **355** Whitfords to Ellenbrook Town Centre

- **376** Mirrabooka to Landsdale (Whitfords Extension)
- **519** Armadale to Murdoch
- **522** Cockburn Central to Spearwood
- **600** Mandurah to Pinjarra

The following 'limited stops' services temporarily became 'all stops' services:

- **114** Perth to Munster
- **115** Perth to Hamilton Hill
- **361** Perth to Alexander Heights
- **362** Perth to Balajura
- **380** Perth to Perth Airport
- **998/9** CircleRoute

With some of the most stringent travel restrictions in the country (banning all but essential services and personnel from travelling outside their designated region), there has been a significant impact on coach and bus services across the state. The process for passengers travelling beyond their region is to complete a Travel Exemption Form.

Also from 6 April, a revised timetable was introduced for TransWA coach services as follows:

Timetable	Service	Destination	Days	Departure time
GS3	336	Albany to Bunbury	Wednesday and Friday	8:00am
GS3	334	Albany to Bunbury	Monday	8:35am
GS2	460	Albany to East Perth	Monday and Thursday	9:15am
GS1	AP2	Albany to East Perth	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday	9:00am
GE4	543	Albany to Hopetoun	Wednesday	11:45am
SW1	280	Augusta to East Perth	Monday to Friday	3:05pm
GS3	333	Bunbury to Albany	Wednesday and Friday	12:00pm
GS3	335	Bunbury to Albany	Monday	12:00pm
SW4	115	Bunbury to Boyup Brook	Wednesday	11:05am
GS2	473	East Perth to Albany	Monday and Thursday	9:00am
GS1	AP1	East Perth to Albany	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday	9:00am
SW1	277	East Perth to Augusta	Monday to Friday	9:00am
GE1	EP1	East Perth to Esperance	Wednesday and Friday	8:00am
GE2	EP3	East Perth to Esperance	Tuesday	8:00am
GE2	EP5	East Perth to Esperance	Thursday and Sunday	8:00am
GE1	EP7	East Perth to Esperance	Monday	8:00am
N1	879	East Perth to Geraldton	Monday and Wednesday	8:30am
N1	GPE1	East Perth to Geraldton	Wednesday and Thursday	8:30am

N2	851	East Perth to Geraldton	Tuesday	9:30am
N5	PG3	East Perth to Geraldton	Friday	9:45am
N3	811	East Perth to Geraldton	Monday	7:15am
GE1	EP2	Esperance to East Perth	Monday, Wednesday and Friday	8:00am
GE2	EP4	Esperance to East Perth	Thursday	8:00am
GE2	EP6	Esperance to East Perth	Tuesday	8:00am
GE1	EP8	Esperance to East Perth	Saturday	8:00am
GE3	690	Esperance to Kalgoorlie	Friday	8:30am
GE3	700	Esperance to Kalgoorlie	Monday	8:00am
N1	GPE2	Geraldton to East Perth	Monday, Wednesday and Thursday	8:30am
N1/N2	860	Geraldton to East Perth	Tuesday	9:30am
N5	PG4	Geraldton to East Perth	Friday	9:30am
N3	800	Geraldton to East Perth	Tuesday	11:30am
N1	879	Geraldton to Kalbarri	Monday	2:40pm
N4	931	Geraldton to Meekatharra	Monday	1:15pm
GE4	544	Hopetoun to Albany	Thursday	9:45am
N1	860	Kalbarri to Geraldton	Tuesday	7:10am
GE3	651	Kalgoorlie to Esperance	Friday	2:30pm
GE3	671	Kalgoorlie to Esperance	Monday	2:30pm
N4	940	Meekatharra to Geraldton	Tuesday	7:00am

On **Wednesday 29 April**, both the free school buses operated regionally by School Bus Services and TransRegional services resumed operation.

From **Monday 4 May**, services increase back to an equivalent of 70 per cent of the normal weekday timetable due to schools reopening for the beginning of term 2. However, CAT and ferry timetables continue to operate at a reduced frequency.

The following routes continue to not operate until further notice because they have a nearby route:

- **66** Perth to Morley via Beaufort St - duplicated by *950 QEII-Morley via City & Beaufort St*.

- **223** Thornlie to South Thornlie - *212 Thornlie-Southern River* runs nearby.

- **370** Perth to Mirrabooka Limited Stop - duplicated by *970 Perth-Mirrabooka All Stops*.

- **385** Perth to Kingsway Shop Ctr Limited Stops - duplicated by *386 Perth-Kingsway All Stops*.

- **586** Mandurah to Murdoch Uni Mandurah - duplicated by *587 Mandurah-Lakelands*.

Routes 114, 114, 361, 362, 380 and 398/9 (listed previously) resume their limited stop operation.

Timetable update delayed

Minor timetable changes planned for Sunday 5 April have been postponed until further notice. Bus routes 334, 335, 336, 337, 353, 355 and 955 were to receive some timing changes to services.

NEW ZEALAND

Patronage plunges

Across the country, bus operators are seeing steep declines in patronage as the level 4 restrictions bite. Many cities have seen declines in excess of 90 per cent including Christchurch, Auckland, Dunedin, Queenstown and Rotorua. Even worse were Hamilton and Tauranga (95 per cent), while Wellington's Metlink advised its patronage had dropped by up to 97 per cent across its bus services.

Thanks to Hilaire Fraser, David Whiteford, Transport for NSW, The Canberra Times, Transperth, PerthNow and New Zealand Herald for *Bus & Coach News*.

FERRY & SHIP NEWS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Service suspensions

Updating our story from April's *Table Talk*, Manly Fast Ferries continues to operate its 'Manly to Circular Quay' route, while Captain Cook Cruises continues to operate its 'Lane Cove to City' and 'Watsons Bay to Circular Quay' service to a reduced service frequency which are in exception to the other total route suspensions.

2021 Sydney timetable changes

The state government has reportedly stepped in to scrap the timetable changes planned for the F3 and F8 routes in 2021. The plans were publicised in the January edition of *Table Talk*. No further information was available at the time of publication.

Bays 'On Demand' trial paused

The 'on demand' ferry service operating around the Bays Precinct in inner Sydney ended its initial six-month trial period on 13 April with 15,500 trips made in that time. The trial was operated by Sydney Ferries operator Transdev. Another trial is expected to start by the end of the year following analysis of this first trial.

VICTORIA

Searoad timetable changes

The Queenscliff to Sorrento service has been reduced due to lower patronage for the foreseeable future. This reduces the need from two vessels down to just one across the day.

Timetable Change

We are now operating a two hourly service as follows:

Monday to Friday
From Queenscliff - 6am, (booking required), 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm
From Sorrento – 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 6.40pm (booking required)

Saturday & Sunday
From Queenscliff – 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm
From Sorrento – 9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm and 5pm

From 3 April, the following services are operating on the Stony Point – French Island – Cowes service:

Stony Point to French Island
Travel Time - 15 mins

Mon | Fri	Tue | Wed | Thu	Sat	Sun
7.10am	7.10am	-	-
7.50am	7.50am	8.45am	8.15am
10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am
11.50am	11.50am	-	-
3.25pm	3.25pm	2.00pm	2.30pm
4.15pm	4.15pm	-	-
5.10pm	5.15pm	4.30pm	4.45pm

French Island to Stony Point
Travel Time - 15 mins

Mon | Fri	Tue | Wed | Thu	Sat	Sun
7.30am	7.30am	-	-
9.00am	9.00am	9.05am	8.35am
10.20am	10.20am	11.20am	11.20am
12.10pm	12.10pm	-	-
3.45pm	3.45pm	2.15pm	2.50pm
4.35pm	4.35pm	-	-
6.15pm	5.35pm	5.55pm	6.05pm

French Island to Phillip Island
Travel Time - 15 mins

Mon | Fri	Tue | Wed | Thu	Sat	Sun
8.05am	-	-	-
-	-	10.20am	10.20am
5.25pm	-	4.50pm	5.05pm

Phillip Island to French Island

Mon | Fri	Tue | Wed | Thu	Sat	Sun
8.30am	-	-	-
-	-	10.50am	10.50am
5.50pm	-	5.25pm	5.35pm

Stony Point to Phillip Island

Mon-Fri	Tue | Wed | Thu	Sat	Sun
7.50am	-	-	-
-	-	10.00am	10.00am
5.10pm	-	4.30pm	4.45pm

Phillip Island to Stony Point

Mon-Fri	Tue | Wed | Thu	Sat	Sun
8.30am	-	-	-
-	-	10.50am	10.50am
5.50pm	-	5.25pm	5.35pm

TASMANIA

Spirit of Tasmania

Updating our story in the April *Table Talk*, Spirit of Tasmania's operator, TT-Line has announced that it has signed a new 30-year contract with Geelong Ports to move its Victorian berth from Port Melbourne's Station Pier to Corio Quay, north of Geelong, which was "financially advantageous". A TT-Line spokesperson said that the move would allow TT-Line "to expand our freight offering... for many years to come" and avoid "significant congestion in the greater Port of Melbourne".

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Temporary service reductions

State government restrictions caused by COVID-19 and the resultant drop in patronage led to a reduction in public transport services starting from Sunday 6 April. In line with this, ferry services were moved to the Winter timetable.

Thanks to Steven Haby, David Whiteford, ABC News, Transport for NSW, InDaily and Transperth for *Ferry & Ship News*.

AIR NEWS

DOMESTIC

Further reductions

From Friday 10 April, Virgin further reduced its domestic flight schedule to a bare solitary daily return flight (six days a week) between Sydney and Melbourne until at least 15 June. The only other exceptions being cargo flights and flights chartered at taxpayer expense to bring stranded citizens from overseas back into the country.

On the same route, Qantas was operating only five days per week which was only one-tenth of the normal schedule. A Qantas spokesperson said "we had some flights with only a handful of passengers on board, which just isn't sustainable".

Qantas also cut back its in-flight catering across all remaining flights to a solitary water bottle and snack.

Virgin troubles

On 4 April, Virgin Australia suspended transfers of its frequent flyer points to Singapore Airlines and other Star Alliance participants which had been an arrangement the two parties have had since 2014.

Following rebuffs from the federal government, Virgin Australia announced on 21 April that it had entered voluntary administration with $6.84 billion of debt on its books to up to 12,000 creditors. It was unable to continue servicing its high debt. The administrators from Deloitte said they had received "overwhelming" interest from almost a dozen suitors following the move. Due diligence is currently being undertaken by these parties. Virgin's international airline owners had previously declined to put anymore money into the business. One of Virgin's administrators said "our intention is to... restructure and refinance the business".

This move has unsurprisingly had a knock-on effect in the aviation industry. One such example is airport ground operations company Swissport which is considering not only cutting up to 80 per cent of its staff but also liquidating some of its assets. The company has reportedly asked for a $125 million bailout from the federal government.

Both Adelaide and Perth airports have now stopped several planes from leaving their runways as collateral for outstanding debts held by Virgin. Virgin reportedly owes $10 million to Adelaide Airport.

Coronavirus

Updating our story from April's *Table Talk*, the $298 million funding package announced on 28 March included $198 million to cover safety, regulatory compliance and minimum operating capability costs, while the other $100 million would be for direct financial support of smaller regional airlines.

Rex cancels Queensland flights, resuscitates others

Regional Express (Rex) announced on Tuesday 31 March a 'force majeure' event in its contract with the Queensland government. All Rex flights across the state were therefore suspended until further notice.

After the federal government's announcement of the $298 million regional airlines fund, Rex said it intended to return to weekly flights to most of its 59 destinations. However, it said the Queensland government had rejected a reduced schedule proposal by Rex so it had now suspended flights across the state until a commercially viable solution was available. The remainder of the base weekly flights would be funded by the federal government's assistance package for up to six months assuming a 95 per cent drop in passengers across the network. At the end of March, patronage was down by 85 per cent on Rex's network.

However, the airline would still stand down between 60 and 70 per cent of its staff for the duration of the pandemic's effects on the business. This is a material change to the 90 per cent figure that Rex chairperson John Sharp said was only days away without the support package.

Rex pushes new council agreements

The Port Lincoln Times reported on 14 April that Rex had sent a request for local South Australian councils to sign new eight-year partnership agreements with the airline with less than ten days (until 17 April) to accept the agreement or risk permanent withdrawal of Rex flights after the pandemic clears.

The Agreement, dubbed "Stand-By-Me", would see councils directly co-paying for airport infrastructure and services. In return, the airline said that councils would get an "equitable" revenue share.

The airline further said "despite the indispensable role that Rex plays in [regional communities], some councils treat Rex's services as a cash cow whilst others not only work as true partners with Rex but spontaneously offer support at times of crisis such as these. Rex will focus its attention and investment in communities which view our services as an integral part of the community infrastructure...conversely, Rex will avoid working with greedy councils that want to extort as much money as possible from airport fees and charges."

The South Australian Local Government Association president, Sam Telfer, rallied against the move, saying while "councils appreciate the importance of regional air services, and are willing to partner with the state and federal governments on providing support for companies flying regional routes, we won't be strong-armed into signing away millions of dollars at a time when our sector is working hard to support communities impacted by COVID-19. In the midst of this health crisis is not the time to be forcing councils and their communities to be committing to such long-term agreements." Mr Telfer also said councils had

already waived airport fees for the airline and spent "millions" on upgrades to their airports.

Ceduna District Council chief executive officer Geoffrey Moffatt said the offer proposed by Rex was "totally unacceptable". "Using a public health crisis to lock in agreements that will run for most of the next decade is unconscionable... councils are willing to help but we won't be threatened," he said.

Australia Post freight changes

Australia Post (AusPost) advised customers on 14 April that due to reductions in air freight capacity, there could be delays through the letters and parcels network. Particular reference was made to regional and rural communities.

AusPost advised Priority Mail could be suspended, Next Day Express Post into regional/rural communities timelines may not be met, and delivery times for Perth, Brisbane, Northern Queensland and Tasmania could decrease by anywhere between three and seven days.

INTERNATIONAL

Singapore Airlines

Singapore Airlines extended the suspension of 96 per cent of its flights from April until 30 June.

Thanks to Ross Morrison, The Age, Executive Traveller, Bloomberg, The Sydney Morning Herald, Nine News, Sky News Australia, The Australian Financial Review, The West Australian, Australian Aviation, The Port Lincoln Times, Australia Post and The Jakarta Post for *Air News*.

ODD SPOT

Long flight to... here

In late March, a flight operated from Sydney towards Adelaide. However, due to the baggage handlers at the Adelaide airport contracting COVID-19, the pictured flight was turned around near the South Australian border all the way back to Sydney.

Thanks to Geoff Lambert for finding the Odd Spot.

About *Table Talk*