



AUSTRALIAN TIMETABLE ASSOCIATION

TABLE TALK

AUSTRALASIAN TIMETABLE NEWS

RRP \$4.95

No. 341, January 2021

Published by the Australian Timetable Association

RAIL & TRAM NEWS

QUEENSLAND



Service capacity tracker

TransLink has released a “service capacity tracker” on their website (www.translink.com.au) in the form of a dashboard. After selecting a service from the prompts, the dashboard provides a forecast of available space onboard the train, tram, bus or ferry service based on “historical data and forecast changes in travel behaviour” for any of the next seven days.

Limitations include that the dashboard provides data in 15-minute increments (i.e.: if there is more than one bus within a 15-minute period, the data is averaged across those services), and no data is available for services between 23:00 and 05:00. One example is provided below (shows forecast capacity for 15 December from Fortitude Valley station).

TransLink assures that the dashboard is only the first step in providing digital information to passengers. **TRANSLINK**

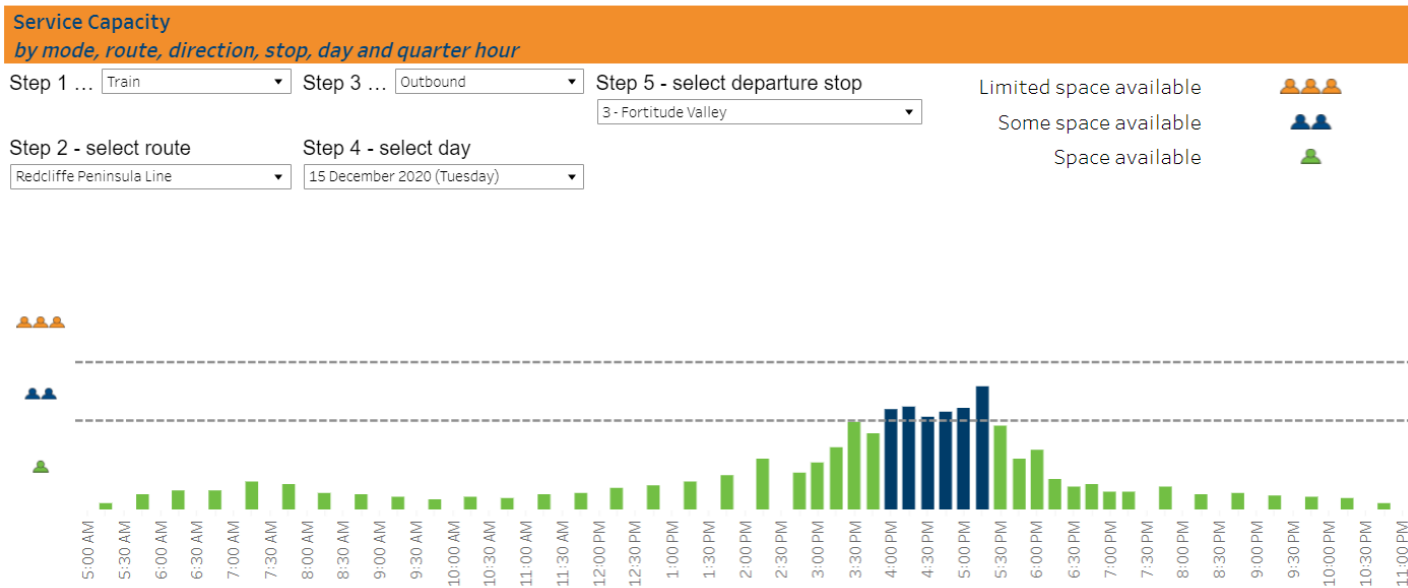
Mount Isa line

On Wednesday, 30 December, an Aurizon freight train hauling fertiliser derailed east of Charters Towers on the Mount Isa line. A workforce of 50 personnel worked to repair the line from 31 December to 5 January. Despite the completion of repairs, heavy rainfall has further delayed the return of both rail traffic.

According to a report in local newspaper, *The North West Star*, the cause was believed to be a very localised extreme weather event impacting the track infrastructure, although Queensland Rail has confirmed that there has been no extreme weather activity being registered on any official weather station nearby.

As of 8 January, the Inlander rail service continues to be replaced by road coaches, where conditions are safe to do so. Freight services are not running west of Emerald on the central west line. Alas, the Spirit of the Outback is also terminating short at Emerald with coaches onto Longreach. **THE NORTH WEST STAR, QUEENSLAND RAIL TRAVEL**

TransLink SEQ Service Capacity Tracker



NEW SOUTH WALES



Extra Summer services

Temporary Summer services started operating on the CBD South-east Light Rail system (lines L2 and L3) from 1 December in an effort to encourage public transport use through the Summer months. An extra 70 services a week are now currently operating after 19:00 between Wednesdays and Sundays inclusive.

Editor's comment: Further information is unable to be provided as it appears, as at 5 December, these extra services have not been added onto the mobile data feed.

Matching the data feed with the online timetable, dated August 2020, shows that one service has been removed in each direction at around 19:30. This, in tandem with some minor timing differences appears to show that Transport for NSW has been tardy in keeping the online PDF timetable up-to-date.

TRANSPORT FOR NSW

'Green dot' update

Public transport operators rolled out increased capacity for COVID-19 friendly travel across train carriages and light rail & bus vehicles in early December, just weeks before the city's northern beaches infection outbreak forced the government to apply the brakes to easing restrictions.

On Sydney Trains carriages, the increase in COVID-safe capacity saw green dots placed three per row of seats in the upper and lower levels of each carriage. This replaced the previous placement of three-two-three-two dots in every four-row block.

Prior to the usual Christmas drop-off, according to Transport Minister, Andrew Constance, six per cent of services did not have sufficient physical distancing by passengers, and these services were more concentrated in the morning peak, despite continued investment in additional shoulder-peak services.

[NEWS.COM.AU](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-01/sydney-trains-green-dots-3-2-3-2-120000)

Greater Sydney: Face masks mandatory

The state government issued a Public Health Order, and a subsequent amendment, that made the wearing of face masks mandatory in most indoor environments, including on board all public transport services across "Greater Sydney" as well as the Central Coast and Wollongong Local Government Areas from 00:01 on Sunday 3 January. By extension, all waiting areas and other concourse areas of stations have been included in the Order. Children under 12 years of age, and anyone with a disability or health condition making a face mask unsuitable are exempted.



An initial 24-hour grace period was provided, probably due to the short timeframe between announcing and enacting the Order. Police were mandated to start issuing \$200 on-the-spot fines for contravention of the Public Health Order from the following day.

A local spy anecdotally reported that, after one week, there was an average 95 per cent compliance rate with wearing of face masks by the general public. Although it is debatable if this rate would be maintained if patronage levels were at normal non-Summer Holiday levels. **NSW GOVERNMENT**



Image: QR Code sticker on board a Sydney commuter bus.

Victorian border reopens

The New South Wales border with Victoria reopened on Monday, 23 November, following four months of checkpoints and eligibility requirements to cross between the two states.

There was a strong rebound in the number of domestic flights between Sydney and Melbourne from this date – traditionally one of the most high-demand routes in the world.

The first NSW TrainLink passenger train service through to Melbourne operated on Wednesday, 25 November, returning to Sydney the next day.

From Monday, 7 December, Victoria also started providing 160 places for stranded Australians coming back from overseas each day. **NINE NEWS**

Harbour Bridge: Major new year closure

Sydney Trains southbound services on the T1 North Shore line terminated at North Sydney due to major maintenance on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

From Friday, 1 January to end of service on Sunday, 10 January, buses replaced trains between North Sydney and Wynyard. The closure allowed for the timber decking in the rail corridor to be replaced with concrete.

Replacement bus routes in operation were:

- **84T1** – Wynyard-North Sydney (express)
- **87T1** - Wynyard-North Sydney (all stations)

Additionally, between Monday 4 and Friday 8 January, the following time-limited replacement buses were also in operation:

- **85T1** – Town Hall-North Sydney (express, operating 06:00-19:00)
- **86T1** – Circular Quay-North Sydney (express, operating 06:00-19:00)

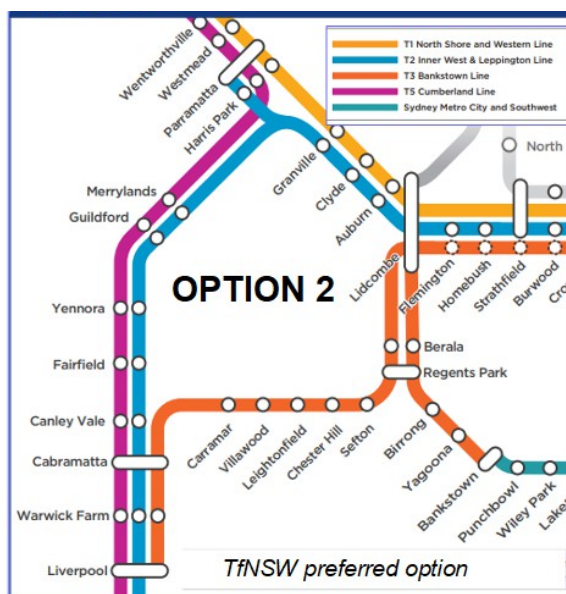
Transport for NSW also advised in communications that they had some extra ferry services operating across the harbour to accommodate. **ABC NEWS, TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

West of Bankstown

Updating the *Table Talk* article from March 2020, Transport for NSW has confirmed the selection of their "preferred" 'option 2' following community consultation.

Once the Bankstown Line shuts down for the Metro in 2023, trains from Liverpool via Sefton will operate into the City Circle via Strathfield. Meanwhile, a shuttle (or yo-yo) service will operate between Lidcombe and Bankstown, where passengers will be able to interchange with the new Metro service towards Sydenham and the city centre. Reflecting the conditions prior to the 2013 timetable, Regents Park will once again become an interchange station.

TRANSPORT FOR NSW



Sydney Metro West

The state government confirmed in early December that a new station would be constructed at Pymont, on the planned Sydney Metro West.

Parramatta Labor MP, Julie Owens, said this flew in the face of the reason given for the earlier rejection of the proposed station at Rydalmere, which the government said, at the time, would cause an unacceptable increase in journey times between Parramatta and the city.

Government ministers have previously promised a 20-minute journey time would be achieved between Parramatta to the city stop. **THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD**

Parramatta light rail

The new names of the 16 light rail stops along the new Parramatta Light Rail, currently under construction, have been released for public consultation by the Geographical Names Board of NSW. They are:

- Carlingford
- Telopea
- Dundas
- Yallamundi (formerly *Rydalmere*)
- Rosehill Gardens
- Tramway Avenue
- Robin Thomas (formerly *Harris Street*)
- Parramatta Square
- Church Street (formerly *Eat Street*)
- Prince Alfred Square
- Fennell Street
- Benaud (formerly *Factory Street*)
- Ngara (an Aboriginal language word for 'listen', formerly *Cumberland Hospital*)
- Gurung (formerly *Children's Hospital*)
- Westmead Hospital
- Westmead

The bracketed former names are the names that were provided in initial project documentation, including maps.

Trams running along the line will be serviced by the "Grand Avenue Tram Depot" located to the immediate east of Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, with a branch line connecting the depot to the passenger line near Rosehill Gardens light rail stop.

Consultation on the station names closed with the Geographical Names Board on Monday, 18 January. **NSW GOVERNMENT GAZETTE (2020-372)**

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



Light rail: Mitchell

Construction has started on the fourteenth light rail stop on the Canberra light rail line at Sandford Street in Mitchell. Transport Minister, Chris Steel, deflected criticism of the delay in building the station, saying that the time had not been right until now. The station will sit near the future suburb of Kenny.

The seven-month, \$12 million project will see buses temporarily replace trams between Dickson and Gungahlin for a fortnight in late January, and then again in late February/early March.

A new park-and-ride facility will also be provided at Wells Station Drive. *WIN NEWS CANBERRA, RIOT ACT*

VICTORIA



New Metro Trains timetables

New Melbourne commuter train timetables will come into effect from Sunday, 31 January. The state government says the new timetables will include 280 extra services every week across the city.

The state government has also announced that, from the same date, off-peak fares will be re-introduced for 'myki money' passengers with a 30 per cent discount available between 09:30 and 16:00, and after 19:00 on weekdays. The discounted fares will be reviewed after three months. The government hopes that this will incentivise enough Melbournians to travel outside peak periods to assist with physical distancing onboard peak services.

The Frankston line will lose direct access to the City Loop (until 2025) with services running directly onto the Werribee line. Cranbourne and Pakenham line services will now operate anti-clockwise through the City Loop all day. Additional services will also be added on the Craigieburn, Sunbury and Werribee lines on weekdays.

On weekends, Werribee and Sandringham line trains will also cease running via the City Loop, providing a "more consistent" experience, while Williamstown services will now run direct to Flinders Street.

The government said that suburban bus route timetables are expected to be updated to account for changes to the train system by April 2021. *VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT, ABC NEWS, THE AGE*

New V/Line timetables

A new timetable will come into effect on the Bendigo line from Sunday, 31 January. Following various upgrade works along the line, V/Line will operate an enhanced timetable.

An overview of the timetable shows that an existing weekday morning service from Bendigo will become express between Malmsbury and Watergardens, delivering a saving of up to 14 minutes in travel time. To cover the gap for passengers at Kyneton, Woodend, Macedon, Gisbourne, Riddells Creek, Clarkefield, and Sunbury, a new service will be established from Kyneton, stopping at all stations into Southern Cross in lieu (Sunbury excepted).

Additional services from Bendigo will see an average service frequency of 25 minutes in the morning peak towards Melbourne.

The government has also confirmed that a new late night train will depart Bendigo at 23:00 to run into Melbourne. It is currently unclear if this will be five nights a week.

Across the V/Line network, the government says there will be 170 new services every week under the new timetable – 125 of those on the Ballarat line, which will enjoy a peak service frequency of approximately every 20 minutes, and every 40 minutes in the daytime off-peak. Ararat also receives a fifth weekday service – a result of upgrades to local stabling infrastructure.

V/Line advised that the new timetables would become available online from 8 January.

Some sources supplied by ROSS MORRISON and STEVEN HABY

Sources - various VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT releases, BENDIGO ADVERTISER, THE AGE

V/Line: SG Albury alterations

Border restrictions with New South Wales ("boarder" according to V/Line) caused by the Avalon COVID-19 cluster in the northern beaches of Sydney pushed the Victorian government to classify that area as a hotspot just days prior to Christmas. The government hence re-imposed the requirement for registration paperwork when entering Victoria.

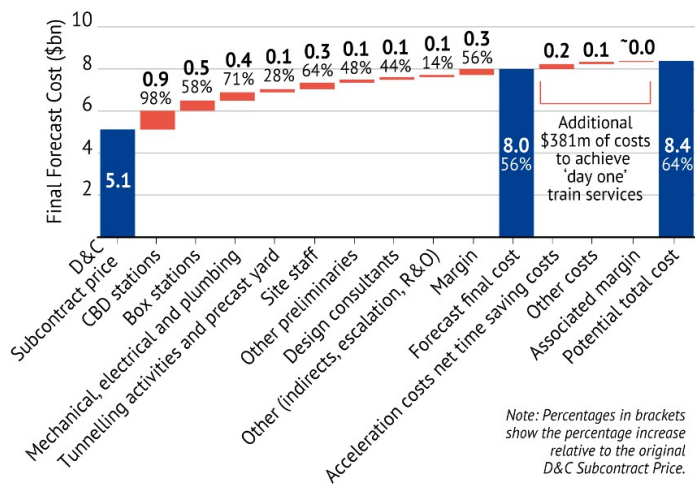
A circular was issued effective 22-30 December with V/Line's Albury services running empty in the Up direction between Albury and Wodonga. Another circular was issued for period 31 December-15 January in light of New South Wales' inability to quickly contain their new COVID-19 infection numbers at zero.

Source supplied by LEN REGAN

Source – V/LINE NETWORK PLANNING

Metro Tunnel delays

The Age newspaper has revealed the extent of delays and budget overruns from the Metro Tunnel project.



(source: Rail Projects Victoria).

A leaked government document has revealed that the tunnel boring machines started three months late, after the state government tried to pressure the Cross Yarra Partnership (CYA) to deliver to time, which itself was after the CYA warned of a cumulative delay of 15-18 months on the project. Such uncertainty plagued the consortium in 2018, they updated their cost projections four times across mid-late 2018. CYA also warned that design changes at the Town Hall & State Library station sites would see their design and construction costs 98 per cent over budget; mechanical, electrical and plumbing costs 71 per cent over budget; and labour costs 25 per cent higher driving a total cost blowout of \$3.3 billion dollars, which Rail Projects Victoria dismissed much of, in their own report, as “materially overstated”.

CYP also said while sub-contracting was a benefit in de-risking the project (by avoiding industrial relations problems), the sub-contracting costs would also be over budget. Often a major contributor to project cost increases, raw materials have only contributed 4 per cent of the total cost overrun.

The dispute escalated in December 2019 when CYA switched off the tunnel boring machines – in a demand for more taxpayer funds. Following initial push back, the government agreed in June to provide an additional payment which has been estimated at over \$1 billion.

A state government spokesperson maintained that the Metro Tunnel was “on track to be completed a year ahead of schedule”. **THE AGE**

Wyndham Vale

State treasurer, Tim Pallas, provided a ten-year time frame for electrification of the line out west to Wyndham Vale. The treasurer confirmed that other projects, like Geelong Fast Rail and a line to the Airport, were higher priorities on the government's list. **THE AGE**

Big Build summer disruption guide

Works continue on various projects under Victoria's *Big Build*. Find the upcoming calendar below.

Source supplied by **ROSS MORRISON**

Source – **BIGBUILD.VIC.GOV.AU**

Line(s)	Disruption	Works start	Works finish
Craigieburn	Buses replace trains on a section of the Craigieburn Line	Thursday 7 January	Saturday 16 January
Cranbourne	Buses replace trains between Dandenong and Cranbourne	Sunday 17 January	Thursday 21 January
Cranbourne, Pakenham and Frankston	Buses replace trains between on a section of the Cranbourne, Pakenham and Frankston lines	Friday 22 January	Tuesday 26 January
Frankston and Stony Point	Buses replace trains between Mordialloc and Frankston/Stony Point	Sunday 31 January	Sunday 7 February
Route(s)	Disruption	Works start	Works finish
Routes 48 and 75	Buses replace Route 48 between Parliament Station and Barkers Road, and route 75 between Russell Street and Fordholm Road	Sunday 3 January	Saturday 16 January
Route 78	Buses replace trams along the entire route between Victoria Street/Church Street and Brighton Road/Chapel Street	Thursday 7 January	Monday 11 January
Line(s)	Disruption	Works start	Works finish
Ballarat, Ararat and Maryborough	Coaches replace trains between Melton and Ballarat/Ararat/Maryborough. <i>First and last week only: Coaches replace trains between Southern Cross and Ballarat/Ararat/Maryborough</i>	evening of Sunday 27 December	Saturday 30 January
Seymour and Shepparton	Coaches replace trains between Southern Cross and Seymour/Shepparton	evening of Wednesday 6 January	Saturday 16 January
Bendigo, Echuca and Swan Hill	Coaches replace trains on sections of the line	evening of Friday 26 February	Sunday 7 March
Bendigo	Nightly, coaches replace trains between Southern Cross and Bendigo	Monday 8 March	Wednesday 10 March

Ballarat line disruption

Services were cancelled throughout the day on Monday, 7 December due to an invasion of tumbleweed between Rowsley and Bank Box Loops. Reports on Nine News Local's Ballarat bulletin broadcast on the local Southern Cross Nine station showed images of tumbleweed invading vast areas since the previous Saturday.

Source supplied by **GEOFF LAMBERT**

Source – **THE BALLARAT COURIER**

The Overland resumes

The *Overland* service resumed on Sunday, 3 January following an enforced suspension caused by COVID-19 impacts on state border controls.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Flinders line opens

The Flinders line extension finally opened on Tuesday, 29 December. Hence, a new timetable, dated 29 December 2020, has been released by Adelaide Metro for the Seaford and Flinders lines.

On the Flinders line, the timetable sees trains operate every 20 minutes in the morning and afternoon peaks, every 30 minutes during off-peak and on weekends. The last service departs Flinders to the city just after midnight (00:02) seven days a week.

Woodlands Park becomes a major interchange point due to the stopping patterns in the new timetable.

Source supplied by – **PAUL BROWN**

Source – **ADELAIDE METRO**



Gawler electrification

The project to electrify the Gawler line will finish even later than expected. Replacement buses will continue to operate throughout the remainder of Summer through to April, with the state government blaming the previous Labor government for 'poor planning'. Transport Minister, Corey Wingard said "a very messy contract we were left with when we came into Government... only 5 per cent of design done... we've had to go through and look at some of the variations and there was a number of legal claims that were being made against this contract".

Leader of the Labor Opposition, Tom Koutsantonis said in response that the claims were "breathtaking... if the Treasury and the Minister knew that there was an expense coming, it would've been budgeted for in the budget either as a contingency or as something that was a risk". **ABC NEWS**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Australind train suspended

The Australind train service has been suspended since late November due to an issue with the train's axle boxes. According to the government, new axle boxes have been ordered.

In the meantime, TransWA coaches are replacing the service with two routes:

- All stations, and
- Limited stops stopping at Bunbury, Kwinana (to link with the Perth suburban rail network) and Perth only (one return trip on weekday mornings only).

TransWA have also provided:

- Discounts of up to 75 per cent on fares whilst the coaches are operating;
- For customers travelling into Perth from Bunbury, the Transperth train component of the trip is free provided a booking is made on the Australind website for the weekday 06:00 coach departing from Bunbury (changing at Kwinana).
- For passengers that have travelled at least three times on the Australind between July and November, 10 free trips on the Australind service; and
- Morning commuters from Bunbury to Perth get a free newspaper and refreshments.

Authorities advise that the train is expected to be back in service by February 2021. Readers may recall that new rollingstock has been ordered for the service, expected to enter service in 2023. **WA PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY, TRANSWA**

Fast Rail: Perth to Bunbury

The state government confirmed on 4 December it would match dollar-for-dollar the federal government's \$4 million investment into the development of a business case on the viability of a sub-90 minute journey offering by Fast Rail between Perth and Bunbury. A 90-minute base journey would provide a time saving of 40 per cent time on the existing 175-kilometre Australind service.

Corridors under consideration include:

- Extending the electrified Mandurah line via Forrest Highway.
- Using the existing rail alignment via Pinjarra and Harvey.
- Using another existing rail alignment from Armadale.

The state government has already committed funds, as part of its new combined commuter railcar contract with Alstom, to build two new trains (each with three carriages) to replace the existing Australind rollingstock.

The state government media release however does state that a fast train is “realistically many years away”.
WA GOVERNMENT, ABC NEWS

NEW ZEALAND



Auckland: face masks mandatory

Face masks became mandatory on Auckland's public transport network on Thursday, 16 November. Children under 12 years of age, anyone with a disability or health condition making a face mask unsuitable, and students onboard school buses are exempted. On the latter, Auckland Transport said they were exempt because 'they are part of a registered group or have space to physically distance where possible'.

Passengers can also continue to scan the QR codes onboard vehicles using the NZ COVID Tracer mobile application.

On enforcement of the rule, a local police spokesperson said that communities had adjusted well to COVID-19 restrictions, and they would maintain their 'education and encouragement' approach. Police were also handing out a limited number of masks.

Reviewing the morning of 16 November, Auckland Transport said that mask usage was running at around 90 per cent of commuters. *AUCKLAND TRANSPORT, 1 NEWS, STUFF.CO.NZ*

INTERNATIONAL

France: COVID ridership stronger

SNCF confirmed on 17 November that patronage levels had been stronger during France's second COVID lockdown.

Since 30 October, the national government imposed a lockdown due to a second wave of COVID infections, with a daily infection rate above 10,000.

SNCF's TGV services are currently operating at 30-40 per cent of the regular pre-COVID timetable – which is roughly five times the number of services than during the first lockdown in April.

Services were likely to be restored over Christmas with French transport minister, Jean-Baptiste Djebbari, instructing SNCF on 17 November to operate a full timetable from 15 December to 4 January. International services were also severely limited. Each day, Eurostar was operating just one London to Paris and London to Amsterdam service, while Thalys was providing two Paris to Brussels services (one running through to Amsterdam). *INTERNATIONAL RAIL JOURNAL, RT NEWS*

Trans-Europe Express 2.0

The governments of France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland have agreed to increase direct overnight rail services between their major cities across country borders in another sign of co-operation across Central and Western European nations.

Planned to commence in December 2021, the initiative, dubbed Trans-Europe Express 2.0, would start on the Zurich-Amsterdam and Vienna-Paris routes with further routes to roll-out over the following three years:

- Dec 2022 – Zurich-Rome;
- Dec 2023 – Berlin-Paris & Berlin-Brussels;
- Dec 2024 – Zurich-Barcelona.

The “2.0” references the original Trans-European Express which linked 130 cities across Europe until the 1990s.

Now whilst airlines might be worried by the plan, the potential impact of rail will likely be dented by travel time which will still significantly favour the airlines. As one example, the Amsterdam-Rome route by rail would have a journey time of 13 hours, while it takes only two hours to fly between the two cities. *EXECUTIVE TRAVELLER*

Italy: Hydrogen trains ordered

Rail operator FNM has ordered six Alstom hydrogen fuel-cell trains, with an option for eight more, for services in the Lombardy region. The new Coradia Stream trains will be manufactured in Italy. *RAILWAY NEWS*

China: New lines opened

Maintaining the Chinese tradition of opening new lines in the New Year period, 11 Chinese cities have welcomed new metro and light rail lines since 26 December 2020.

On 26 December, four cities opened new metro lines:

- **Zhengzhou** opened Lines 3 and 4;
- **Beijing** opened the first section of its Line 18 (between Yunqiao and Hangtuo);
- **Nanchang** opened its new Line 3 (running between Jingdong Avenue and Yinsanjiao North); and
- **Hefei** opened its Line 5 (running from Wangchucheng West to Guiyanglu).

On 27 December:

- **Fuzhou** opened a 4.3 kilometre extension of its Line 1 metro to Sanjiangkou.

On 28 December:

- **Xi'an** opened Lines 5, 6 and 9 (totalling 82.5 kilometres of metro lines); and
- **Guangzhou** opened a 7.3 kilometre light rail line running between Changping and Xiangxue.

On 30 December:

- **Hangzhou** opened its Line 1 extension from Xiasha Jiangbin to Xiaoshan Airport, and also new lines 6 and 7. By the end of next year, Hangzhou plans to construct another 210 kilometres of metro line.

On December 31:

- **Beijing** opened its Line 16 extension from Xiyuan through to Ganjia Kou, the Fangshan Line extension to Dongguantou South, and a light rail line (Yizhuang Tram Line 1) operating between Dinghaiyuan and Quzhuang; and
- **Chongqing** opened a small Line 1 extension of 800 metres to Chaotianmen; and extended its Line 6 from Yuelai North to Shaheba.

On 2 January 2021:

- **Wuhan** opened extensions to its metro lines 8 and 11.

The opening of the above new and extended lines represents an additional kilometrage of 454 kilometres.

[INTERNATIONAL RAIL JOURNAL](#)

ENDS

BUS & COACH NEWS

NATIONAL



COVID-19 service changes

As expected, due to the various cross-border restrictions between New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia caused by Sydney's "Avalon cluster" of COVID-19 infections, many interstate coach services were impacted through December and January:

Firefly Express

Melbourne – Sydney (FE31/21) services continue to be suspended indefinitely. Melbourne – Adelaide (FE70/71) day services re-commenced on 9 and 10 December. The overnight services (FE80/81) re-commenced on 20 and 21 December. Adelaide-bound passengers are required to carry permits.

Greyhound

All services in and out of Sydney have been cancelled indefinitely from 21 December. Interestingly, the Byron Bay – Brisbane service has continued to operate, however the *Greyhound* website notes that passengers would experience significant delays. Passengers travelling into Queensland must have valid border permits.

The Melbourne – Canberra service also continues to operate for now. Passengers must have valid permits on hand, while some delays are to be expected at the Albury checkpoint. Additionally, a new Melbourne – Canberra – Sydney timetable was due to come into effect from 5 January, however the Bus Editor assumes, without further information directly available, that the service will only operate between Canberra and Melbourne.

Premier Motor Service

The Sydney – Brisbane and Brisbane – Cairns services continue to operate normally. However, with the former, Premier's website states that passengers 'may need' to carry travel permits and there would be checks at the New South Wales/Queensland border.

Skybus

The Melbourne (Southern Cross) to Tullamarine service now operates every 15 minutes from 04:30 to midnight daily. Given the recent return of state border restrictions, it will be interesting to see if the service level is revised sometime in January. The Bus Editor notes that the double deckers have reappeared on the run but passenger loadings are minimal to empty.

The Avalon - Melbourne (Southern Cross) service now operates on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. A recent timetable was dated to last for just

one week (2 to 8 January) on their website. The service departs Southern Cross at 16:20 and departs Avalon at 18:25.

The Byron Bay – Gold Coast Airport service is still running with a two-hourly frequency between 06:00 and 20:00. Border checks are in place. *STEVEN HABY, FIREFLY, GREYHOUND, PREMIER MOTOR SERVICE, SKYBUS*

NEW SOUTH WALES



Sydney timetable changes

Transport for NSW continues to tinker with bus timetables in Sydney. From January, the following changes become effective:

- **115** City-Chatswood via North Sydney, new route replaces 343 between City & Chatswood. 343 continues as City-Kingsford. Early morning and late-night 115 services will operate between North Sydney and Chatswood only.
- New route **120** (City (QVB)-Chatswood via Freeway) - replaces 272 Wynyard-North Willoughby & 340 between City & Chatswood. 340 between City and Bondi Junction discontinued.
- **200** altered to operate between Bondi Junction and Gore Hill (previously between Bondi Jct and Chatswood).
- New route **500X** (City {Hyde Park}-West Ryde) – replaces routes 515, 518, X15 & X18 between City & Ryde, and M52 & 520 between City & West Ryde. 515 now operates Ryde-Eastwood, 518 now operates Meadowbank Wharf-Macquarie Centre via Ryde, also replacing route 507 between Meadowbank & Ryde. X15 and X18 discontinued.
- New night route **500N** (City (Hyde Park)-Parramatta) - nightly service replaces night services on 520 Circular Quay-Parramatta. 520 discontinued.
- **501** Central (Pitt St)-Parramatta. Extended from West Ryde, replacing M52 between West Ryde and Parramatta.
- **507** Gladesville-Meadowbank Station via Putney, previously Circular Quay-Macquarie University via Putney & Bridge Rd. Peak Hour 507 services extend to and from City. 518 replaces 507 between Meadowbank & Ryde. 517, new route replaces 507 between Ryde & Macquarie Centre.
- **513** West Ryde-Carlingford, previously Meadowbank Wharf-Carlingford. Meadowbank Wharf now served by 518 Meadowbank Wharf-Macquarie Centre via Ryde.

- **525** Strathfield-Parramatta, previously Burwood-Parramatta.
- **M52** Circular Quay-Parramatta replaced by 500X City-West Ryde and 501 Central (Pitt St)-Parramatta.
- **X06** City-East Ryde, replaced by additional services on 506.

Routes M52, 340, X15, X18 and 520 have been withdrawn. The withdrawal of M52 leaves just three cross-region Metrobus routes remaining in Sydney – M90, M91 and M92 (all operated by Transdev in regions 10 and 13).

Report kindly supplied by HILAIRE FRASER

COVID outbreak

The outbreak of several dozen confirmed COVID-19 cases (known as the Avalon cluster), from Sydney's northern beaches region, saw the area go into lockdown for five days from Saturday, 19 December, as the state government worked to contain the spread in the lead-up to Christmas. All other states and territories across the country quickly responded by tightening interstate travel restrictions.

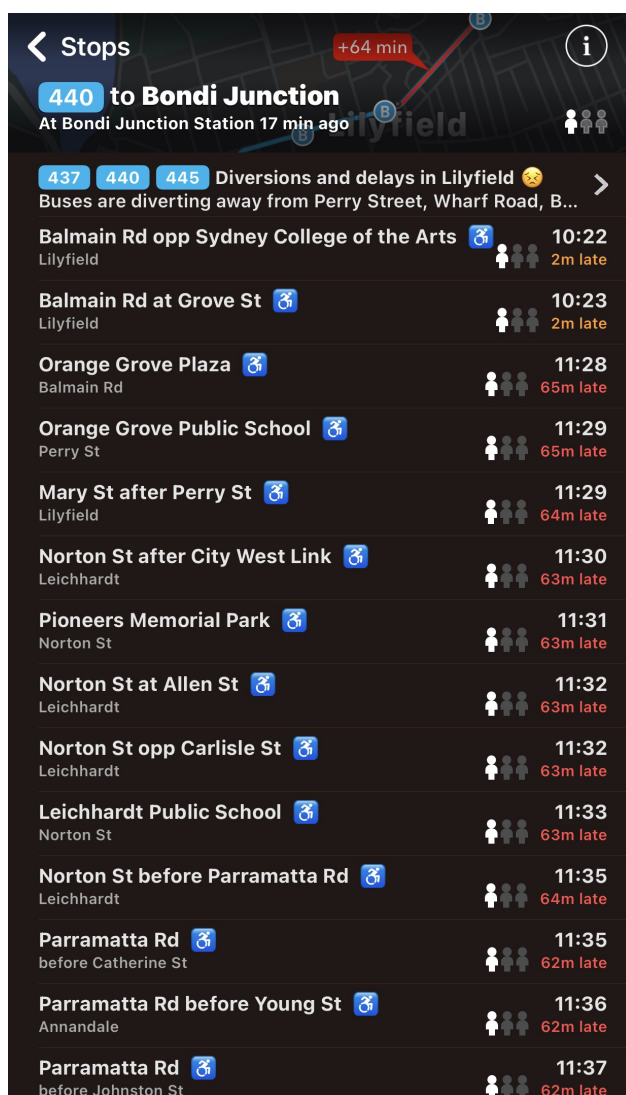
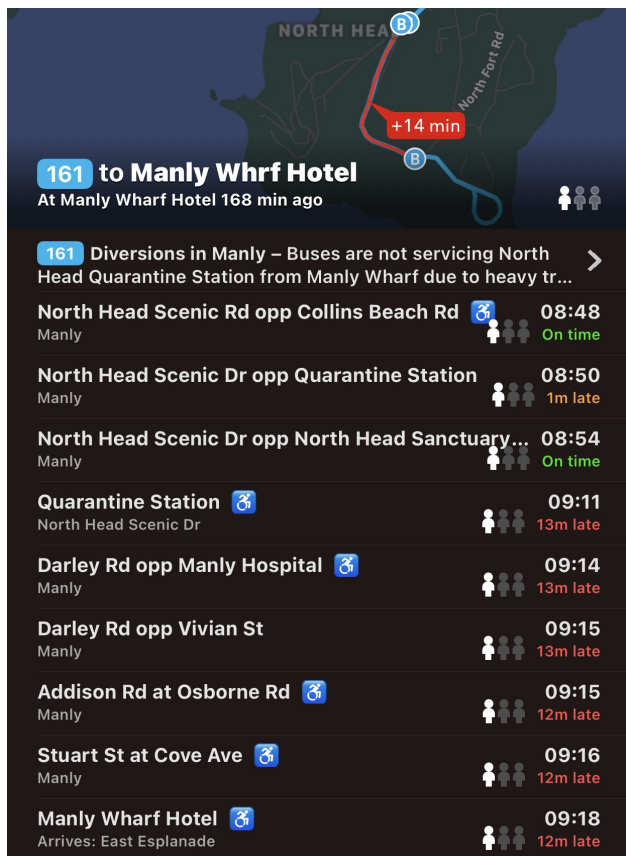
On 23 December, the state government announced it would effectively split the Northern Beaches council area into two halves, with the northern half, which includes Avalon, effectively cast off from the remainder of Sydney through the Christmas period until the cluster could be eliminated. While the southern half of the northern beaches remained connected to the city with visitors from any area (except the northern half) allowed at homes and businesses.

Confirmed COVID cases had used a number of Forest Coach Lines commuter bus and Sydney Trains services. Despite the growing infection rate, Transport for NSW confirmed on Friday, 18 December that it would continue to provide the full timetable of public transport services across the city, exactly what it had done earlier in the year during the first two COVID waves.

Saturday, 19 December saw a four-fold increase in COVID-19 testing across the state compared to the previous period.

On Sunday, 20 December, a number of commuter bus routes in northern and central Sydney experienced lengthy delays, cancellations and/or diversions as a result of lengthy traffic queues for COVID testing at clinics.

Loop route **161** (Manly-North Head-Manly) had all trips cancelled from 09:30 for the remainder of the day due to kilometre-long traffic queues at the North Head quarantine station, which the route passes. In public communications, Transport for NSW said that “12 stops [were] being missed”. Local resident, Geoff Lambert, said that he expected the impact of the COVID testing to last for more days to come. A screenshot of the real-time data provided through NextThere of the last service is provided on the top-left of the next page.



Route **199** (Manly-Palm Beach) services were terminating short at Careel Bay Tennis Club with “up to 17 stops being missed”.

Route **440** (Balmain-Bondi Junction) buses experienced cancellations, diversions and significant delays due to significant traffic queues at the Rozelle/Orange Grove clinic. At least four trips in the 09:30-12:00 time period were cancelled, one trip stopped short (skipping the Railway Square to Bondi Junction section) due to late running (recorded 69 minutes late), while other services were delayed by up to 70 minutes (an example is provided on the bottom-left of this page. *For the record, the bus gained good time after Central {Eddy Avenue}, arriving at Bondi Junction Interchange 'only' 49 minutes late*). According to Transport for NSW communications “up to 14 stops [were] being missed, and some buses were being delayed”.

Transport for NSW also advised that routes 142, 179, 333, 379, 380, 437, 445, and 556 were also affected due to heavy queues for COVID-19 testing on the same day. These events coincided with the first day of State Transit network changes. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW, GEOFF LAMBERT, ABC NEWS, SEVEN NEWS**

Mosman: Military Road service analysis

The updated bus network for Sydney's northern beaches services, operated by State Transit, became effective on Sunday 20 December.

Reader John Beckhaus has provided a review of the difference in the number of services on Military Road in Manly when compared to the previous timetable.

Military Road stopping bus services

INBOUND

No. of services (Previous Weekday Timetable)	
Advertised (464 x 5)	2320
Saturday	322
Sunday	<u>328</u>
Total	2970

No. of services (New Weekday Timetable)		Cumulative Total	
Advertised (147 x 5)	735		
Route 100 (135 x 5)	675		
Route 144 (100 x 5)	530	1940	
Saturday			
Advertised	90		
Route 100	99		
Route 144	100	289	
Sunday			
Advertised	87		
Route 100	96		
Route 144	100	<u>283</u>	
Total		2512	

The reduction in inbound weekday services is 485.

OUTBOUND

No. of services	
Old Weekday	
Advertised (537 x 5)	2685
Saturday	324
Sunday	305
Total	3314

New Weekday	Cumulative total	
Advertised (195 x 5)	975	
Route 100 (139 x 5)	695	
Route 144 (102 x 5)	510	2180
Saturday		
Advertised	90	
Route 100	100	
Route 144	100	290
Sunday		
Advertised	86	
Route 100	95	
Route 144	100	281
Total		2751

The reduction in outbound weekday services is 563.

The total bus service reduction is 1,048.

Note: Advertised means the routes and times that are on the Bus Stop Timetable. No times are provided for Routes 100 and 144.

Outbound limited service routes (Afternoon peak)

No. of services	
228	(3 x 5) 15
229	(3 x 5) 55
246	(38 x 5) 190
246R	(3 x 5) 10 (Balmoral Heights)
249	(5 x 5) 25

So, in the new timetable:

INBOUND - OUTBOUND

Buses at Military Road bus stops 2,512 - 2,751

Buses listed on timetables at bus stops 912 - 1,151

Analysis by JOHN BECKHAUS

Extra Summer services

Temporary Summer services started operating on Sydney's roads from 1 December to provide a boost to service frequencies on key routes. Transport for NSW is promoting an extra 236 regular route services across Saturdays and Sundays operating to **Bondi**, **Coogee** and **Manly** beaches, while another 600 services have been added across Friday and Saturdays between 21:00 and 01:00 running out from Sydney CBD.

Meanwhile, many **NightRide** routes are also enjoying an increase in frequencies on Friday and Saturday nights, the services' busiest nights, in an effort to support the city's night-time economy throughout the Summer months as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Many of the extra workings involve short-workings, meaning

that they do not operate along the entire length of the normal route.

NightRide bus services operate (to amended stopping patterns) in place of Sydney Trains services which generally do not operate between midnight and 04:30.

The mobile data feed shows:

- **N10** (Town Hall-Sutherland) – Additional short-working services running to Kogarah departing Town Hall at 00:25, 01:25, 02:25, 03:25 and 04:25; and services through to Sutherland departing Town Hall at 00:35, 01:35, 02:35, 03:35 and 04:35. This provides 5 buses per hour as far as Kogarah between 01:00 and 05:00, and doubles the timetabled service frequency through to Sutherland.
- **N11** (Town Hall-Cronulla) – Additional services departing Town Hall at 00:10, 00:50, 01:10, 01:50, 02:10, 02:50, 03:10, 03:50, 04:10 and 04:50 providing a 20-minute frequency between 00:50 and 04:50.
- **N20** (Town Hall-Riverwood) - Additional short-workings to Rockdale departing Town Hall at 00:20, 00:40, 01:20, 01:40, 02:20, 02:40, 03:20, 03:40, 04:20 and 04:40.
- **N30** (Town Hall-Macarthur) - Additional services through to Macarthur departing Town Hall at 00:15, 00:45, 01:15, 01:45, 02:15, 02:45, 03:15, 03:45, 04:15 and 04:45 providing 4 buses per hour between 01:15 and 04:15.
- In the opposite direction, an additional service departs Macarthur at 23:50.
- **N31** (Liverpool-Leppington) – No extra trips.
- **N40** (Town Hall-East Hills) - Additional services through to East Hills departing Town Hall at 00:25, 00:55, 01:25, 01:55, 02:25, 02:55, 03:25, 03:55, 04:25 and 04:55 providing 3 buses per hour.
- **N50** (Town Hall-Liverpool) – Additional short-workings to Strathfield departing Town Hall at 00:24, 01:30, 02:36, 03:44 and 04:52 to provide 3 buses per hour between 00:00 and 05:00.

Towards the city, additional short-workings depart Strathfield at 00:59, 02:05, 03:11 and 04:19. This tabling enables the bus to form a return short-working with two minutes dwell time at Town Hall.

- **N60** (Town Hall-Fairfield) – Additional short-workings to Lidcombe departing Town Hall at 00:55, 01:55, 02:55, 03:55 and 04:55 to provide 3 buses per hour until 04:10.

Towards the city, additional short-workings from Lidcombe departing at 00:51, 01:51, 02:51, 03:51 and 04:51.

- **N61** (Town Hall-Carlingford) – Additional short-workings to Strathfield departing Town

Hall at 00:00, 01:00, 02:00, 03:00 and 04:00 to provide a 30-minute service frequency.

Towards the city, additional short-workings from Strathfield departing at 00:30, 01:30, 02:30, 03:30 and 04:30 – only 8 minutes after the departure of the hourly timetabled service starting from Carlingford.

- **N70** (Town Hall-Penrith) - Additional short-workings to Blacktown departing Town Hall at 00:14, 01:14, 02:14, 03:14 and 04:14.

Towards the city, additional short-workings from Blacktown departing at 00:17, 01:22, 02:22, 03:22 and 04:22.

Curiously, most of the normal timetable services are attributed to Blue Mountains Transit, but the rest, including the extra services, are attributed to Hillsbus, another division of CDC.

- **N71** (Town Hall-Richmond) - Additional short-workings to Blacktown departing Town Hall at 00:59, 01:59, 02:59, 03:59 and 04:59. These five services run to the same timetable as normally timetabled N70 buses all the way to Blacktown.

Towards the city, additional short-workings from Blacktown departing at 00:53, 01:53, 02:53, 03:53 and 04:53 to provide a 30-minute frequency into the City.

- **N80** (Town Hall-Strathfield-Hornsby) – Additional short-workings to Meadowbank departing Town Hall at 01:00, 02:00, 03:00, 04:00 and 05:00 providing an average 30-minute frequency.

Towards the city, additional short-workings depart Meadowbank at 00:16, 01:16, 02:16, 03:16 and 04:16 to provide a 30-minute service frequency into the City.

- **N81** (Town Hall-Olympic Park-Parramatta) – Additional short-workings to Rhodes departing Town Hall at 00:20, 01:20, 02:20, 03:20 and 04:20 to provide 2 buses per hour between 01:00 and 04:30.

Towards the city, additional short-workings depart Rhodes at 00:03, 01:03, 02:03, 03:03 and 04:03 to provide a 30-minute frequency.

- **N90** (Town Hall-Chatswood-Hornsby) - Additional services departing Town Hall at 00:15, 00:45, 01:15, 01:55, 02:25, 02:55, 03:25, 03:55, 04:25 and 04:55.
- **N91** (Macquarie University-Bondi Junction) – Additional services depart Macquarie Uni. at 00:05, 00:35, 01:25, 01:45, 02:25, 02:45, 03:25, 03:45, 04:25 and 04:45 to provide 3 buses per hour between 01:00 and 05:00.
- **N92** (Town Hall-Tallawong) - Additional short-workings to Macquarie University depart Town Hall at 01:10, 02:10, 03:10, 04:10 and 05:10.

In the opposite direction, additional short-workings departing Macquarie University at 00:35, 01:35, 02:35, 03:35 and 04:35.

Passengers travelling from the city to either Arncliffe, Banksia or Rockdale have been the biggest NightRide winners with up to 11 buses per hour across routes N10, N11 and N20. Passengers travelling from the city to either Ashfield, Croydon or Burwood are also significant winners with up to 8 buses per hour across N50, N60 and N61.

Passengers travelling from Macquarie University direct to the city have 5 buses per hour between 02:00 and 05:00 across N91 and N92, and 3 buses per hour provided in the opposite direction from the city between 01:10 and 05:10. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

Route 980 'On Demand' trial success

Transport for NSW's route 980 "turn-up-and-go" minibus trial, between Lilli Pilli and Caringbah, has been hailed a success, after 12 months of operation.

Following a review of service usage (using Opal data), and passenger feedback, Route 980 finished on 18 December.

In its place, from mid-January 2021, local bus route 971 would have an average 30-per cent increase in seat capacity across the week through the introduction of additional services - hours of operation will be extended with a significant boost to peak services (every 15 minutes), and around triple the number of trips during off-peak and on weekends (every 30 minutes on Saturdays and hourly on Sundays). **ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE LEADER**

NSW TrainLink coach services

Since 7 December, NSW TrainLink's route **498** coach service has been extended from Tambar Springs to Gunnedah. Meanwhile, from 9 December, the departure time for the route **599** coach from Bathurst to Trunkey Creek was altered from 16:30 to 12:15. **Report provided by PAUL BROWN**

Additionally, NSW TrainLink has confirmed that two of their suspended coach routes will resume shortly:

- **Canberra to Goulburn** to resume on Monday, 18 January with altered stops: Canberra Airport, Bruce Calvary Hospital, Canberra University and Belconnen. Some stops are for booked passengers only.
- **Forster to Coffs Harbour** to resume on Friday, 22 January running to the same timetable.

Both routes are confirmed to operate from resumption until the end of June. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

Busways Area Timetables

The Busways website (busways.com.au) allows access to area bus timetable booklets. Unlike the on-demand timetables found on Transport's customer-facing website (transportnsw.info), these timetables cover several routes along the same corridor or in the same area. Printed copies in compact DL size can be ordered on the Busways website. Recent Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Grafton timetables have been featured on recent ATA Distribution Lists.

Busways timetable booklets currently available:

Central Coast

32 33 34 Gosford to Somersby and Kariong, effective 30/9/18

36 37 38 Gosford to Tuggerah, effective 30/9/18

50 54 55 57 70 Gosford to Umina Beach Woy Woy and Ettalong Beach, effective 18/11/19

53 59 64 70 Woy Woy to Gosford, and Ettalong Beach, effective 28/4/19

58 Woy Woy to Woy Woy Bay, effective 30/9/18

59 65 Wagstaffe to Woy Woy or Gosford, effective 30/9/18

63 64 65 66A 66B Gosford to Saratoga, Davistown and Kincumber, effective 30/9/18

64 65 66A 66B Gosford to Avoca Beach, Kincumber and Woy Woy, effective 30/9/18

67 68 Gosford to Terrigal, North Avoca and Wamberal, effective 30/9/18

78 79 Lake Haven to Wyong and Tuggerah, effective 30/9/18

80 81 82 Lake Haven to Wyong and Tuggerah, effective 30/9/18

Route 358 Bellingen to Macksville via Urunga & Nambucca Heads
Also shows selected Route 360 services

Monday to Friday		358	358	358	360	360	358	358	358	360	358	
Route number		am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	
22	Bellingen McCristal Dr & Jagera Dr	6:36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H9:40	S9:46	-
23	Bellingen Church St & Hyde St	6:42	-	H7:57	-	-	-	H8:45	H9:47	S9:53	-	11:57
24	Bellingen Crown St & Raymond Cl	6:46	-	H8:01	-	-	-	H8:49L	H9:52	S9:58	-	12:01
25	Raleigh Short Cut Rd & Bayldon Dr	6:56	-	H8:11	-	-	-	-	H10:02	S10:08	-	12:11
26	Urunga Bowra St & Bonville St	7:02	S8:05	H8:17	H8:49	S9:03	9:16	-	H10:08	S10:14	10:42	12:17
27	Valla Beach Kuta Ave & Valla Beach Rd	-	S8:19	H8:28	-	-	-	-	H10:20	S10:28	-	12:28
27	Valla Beach Pre-school, Valla Beach Rd	-	S8:23	H8:32	H9:01	S9:16	-	-	H10:23	S10:31	10:56	12:32
29	Nambucca Heads Centenary Pde & McDonald Dr	-	S8:32	H8:39	-	-	-	-	H10:29	S10:37	-	12:39
33	Nambucca Heads Police Station, Bowra St	-	S8:48	H8:46	-	-	-	-	H10:37	S10:45	-	12:46
37	Nambucca Heads Sport St & Liston St	-	S8:54	H8:52	-	-	-	-	H10:43	S10:51	-	12:52
31	Nambucca Heads Wellington Dr, V-Wall	-	S8:58	H8:54	-	-	-	-	H10:47	S10:55	-	12:54
30	Nambucca Heads Opposite Centrelink, Bowra St	-	S9:01	H8:57	H9:13	S9:27	-	-	H10:51	S10:58	11:08	12:57
34	Nambucca Heads Seaview St & Nelson St	-	S9:07	H9:02	-	-	-	-	H10:57	S11:04	-	1:02
35	Nambucca Heads Nambucca Plaza	-	S9:16	H9:11	H9:19	S9:32	-	-	H11:06	S11:13	11:13	1:11
36	Nambucca Heads Pelican Park, Ginagay Way	-	S9:21	H9:16	H9:24	S9:37	-	-	H11:11	S11:18	11:18	1:16
48	North Macksville Macksville Hospital	-	S9:28	-	H9:31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	Macksville Macksville Aquatic Centre, Cooper St	-	S9:34	H9:24	H9:37	S9:44	-	-	H11:18	S11:25	11:26	1:24
38	Macksville Boundary St opp Short St	-	S9:36	H9:26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1:26
37	Macksville Macksville Post Office, Cooper St	-	S9:40	H9:35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1:35

Explanations
 F - Bus operates Friday nights only.
 H - Bus operates public school holidays only.
 J - Public school holidays bus operates 5 minutes later than time shown.
 L - Bus operates direct via Waterfall Way & Old Pacific Hwy omitting Short Cut Rd.
 Q - Bus continues via Boundary St & Wallace St.
 S - Bus operates public school days only.

For full details of 360 Coffs Harbour services, please see pages 16-17

i see pages 20-23 for route map

♿ Journeys operated by an easy access bus (see note on page 1).

Day Tickets allow all day, unlimited bus travel in and around Coffs Harbour for little more than the cost of a return fare.

There are two Day Tickets available from the driver:

- Inter-Region for travel on Routes 365, 366, 367 and 369 (with the exception of travel beyond Thompsons Rd).
- Outer-region for travel on Routes 359, 360, 361, 365, 366 and 367.

DAY TICKETS

All buses from Park Beach Plaza to Park Ave

Monday to Friday			Monday to Friday cont.			Saturday			Saturday cont.		
Time	Route	via	Time	Route	via	Time	Route	via	Time	Route	via
7:18	367	West Coffs	S2:50	360	Highway	8:05	365	The Jetty	4:20	369	Highway
57:34	368	West Coffs	2:50	366	Frances St	8:25	367	West Coffs	4:25	367	West Coffs
7:40	366	Frances St	H2:50	360	Highway	8:50	366	Frances St	4:50	369	Highway
7:53	365	The Jetty	3:05	365	The Jetty	9:05	365	The Jetty	4:50	366	Frances St
8:18	367	West Coffs	3:30	367	West Coffs	9:25	367	West Coffs	5:05	365	The Jetty
8:45	366	Frances St	3:50	360	Highway	9:50	360	Highway	5:25	367	West Coffs
9:05	365	The Jetty	4:00	366	Frances St	9:50	366	Frances St	5:50	366	Frances St
9:20	369	Highway	4:15	365	The Jetty	10:05	365	The Jetty	6:05	365	The Jetty
9:20	366	Frances St	4:20	369	Highway	10:20	369	Highway	6:25	367	West Coffs
9:25	367	West Coffs	4:30	366	Frances St	10:25	367	West Coffs	7:05	365	The Jetty
9:35	365	The Jetty	4:35	367	West Coffs	10:50	369	Highway	7:28	360	Highway
9:40	368	West Coffs	4:45	365	The Jetty	10:50	366	Frances St	7:50	366	Frances St
9:50	360	Highway	4:50	369	Highway	11:05	365	The Jetty	8:25	367	West Coffs
9:50	366	Frances St	5:00	366	Frances St	11:20	369	Highway	11:35	365	The Jetty
10:05	365	The Jetty	5:10	368	West Coffs	11:25	367	West Coffs			
10:20	369	Highway	5:15	365	The Jetty	11:35	365	The Jetty			
10:25	367	West Coffs	5:20	369	Highway	11:50	369	Highway			
10:50	369	Highway	5:35	367	West Coffs	11:50	366	Frances St	8:50	366	Frances St
10:50	366	Frances St	6:00	366	Frances St	12:05	365	The Jetty	9:25	367	West Coffs
11:05	365	The Jetty	6:15	365	The Jetty	12:20	369	Highway	9:50	360	Highway
11:20	369	Highway	6:35	367	West Coffs	12:25	367	West Coffs	10:05	365	The Jetty
11:25	367	West Coffs	7:00	366	Frances St	12:50	369	Highway	10:50	366	Frances St
11:40	368	West Coffs	7:15	365	The Jetty	12:50	366	Frances St	11:25	367	West Coffs
11:50	360	Highway	F7:28	360	Highway	1:05	365	The Jetty	12:05	365	The Jetty
11:50	366	Frances St	7:35	367	West Coffs	1:20	369	Highway	12:50	366	Frances St
12:05	365	The Jetty	8:00	366	Frances St	1:25	367	West Coffs	2:25	367	West Coffs
12:20	369	Highway	8:15	365	The Jetty	1:50	369	Highway	2:50	360	Highway
12:25	367	West Coffs	8:35	367	West Coffs	1:50	366	Frances St	3:05	365	The Jetty
12:50	369	Highway	F11:35	365	The Jetty	2:05	365	The Jetty	3:50	366	Frances St
12:50	366	Frances St				2:20	369	Highway	4:25	367	West Coffs
1:05	365	The Jetty				2:25	367	West Coffs	5:00	365	The Jetty
1:20	369	Highway				2:50	360	Highway	5:40	366	Frances St
1:25	367	West Coffs				2:50	366	Frances St	6:10	367	West Coffs
1:50	360	Highway				3:05	365	The Jetty			
1:50	366	Frances St				3:20	369	Highway			
2:05	365	The Jetty				3:25	367	West Coffs			
2:20	369	Highway				3:50	369	Highway			
2:25	367	West Coffs				3:50	366	Frances St			
2:40	368	West Coffs				4:05	365	The Jetty			

F - Bus operates Friday nights only.
 H - Bus operates public school holidays.
 S - Bus operates public school days.

Above and previous page - excerpts from Busways Coffs Harbour area timetable booklet.

90 91 92 Lake Haven to Toukley, effective 30/9/18

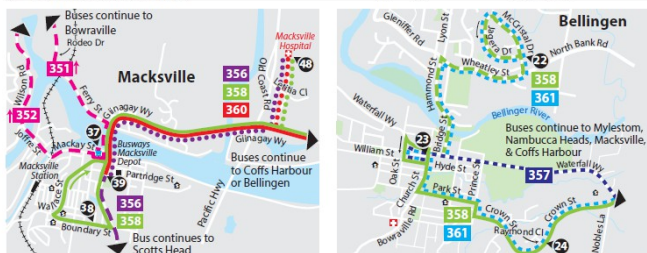
93 94 Tuggerah to Norville or Budgewoi, effective 30/9/18

95 95X 96 Lake Haven to Budgewoi, Morisset and Wyee, effective 30/9/18

97 98 99 Lake Haven to Wyee, Lake Munmorah and Charlestown, effective 30/9/18

Route 358 Macksville to Bellingen via Nambucca Heads & Urunga
Also shows selected Route 360 services

Monday to Friday continued		360	360	360	358	358	360	360	358	358	360	360
Route number		am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
39	Macksville Macksville Aquatic Centre, Cooper St	-	-	-	1:24	2:29	-	-	H4:57	S5:09	-	-
38	Macksville Boundary St opp Short St	-	-	-	1:26	2:31	-	-	H4:59	S5:11	-	-
37	Macksville Macksville Post Office, Cooper St	11:38	S12:54	H1:04	1:35	2:35	H3:52	S4:05	H5:03	S5:15	F5:49	F9:49
48	North Macksville Macksville Hospital	-	S1:01	H1:11	-	-	H3:59	S4:12	-	-	-	-
36	Nambucca Heads Pelican Park, Ginagay Way	11:43	S1:07	H1:17	1:40	2:40	H4:05	S4:18	H5:10	S5:22	F5:56	F9:56
35	Nambucca Heads Nambucca Plaza	11:47	S1:12	H1:22	1:49	2:49	H4:10	S4:23	H5:19	S5:31	F6:01	F10:01
34	Nambucca Heads Seaview St & Nelson St	-	-	-	1:55	2:54	-	-	H5:24	S5:36	-	-
33	Nambucca Heads Police Station, Bowra St	-	-	-	2:02	3:00	-	-	H5:31	S5:43	-	-
32	Nambucca Heads Sport St & Liston St	-	-	-	2:08	3:06	-	-	H5:37	S5:49	-	-
31	Nambucca Heads Wellington Dr, V-Wall	-	-	-	2:10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Nambucca Heads Police Station, Bowra St	11:53	S1:18	H1:28	2:13	3:10	H4:16	S4:29	H5:41	S5:53	F6:06	F10:06
29	Nambucca Heads Centenary Pde & McDonald Dr	-	-	-	2:19	3:14	-	-	H5:47	S5:59	-	-
28	Valla Beach Kuta Ave & Valla Beach Rd	-	-	-	2:28	3:32	-	-	H5:55	S6:07	-	-
27	Valla Beach Pre-school, Valla Beach Rd	12:05	S1:30	H1:40	2:32	3:36	H4:28	S4:41	H5:58	S6:10	F6:18	F10:18
26	Urunga Bowra St & Bonville St	12:17	S1:42	H1:52	2:42	3:46	H4:40	S4:53	H6:10	S6:22	F6:30	F10:30
25	Raleigh Short Cut Rd & Bayldon Dr	-	-	-	2:48	3:53	-	-	H6:16	S6:28	-	-
24	Bellingen Crown St & Raymond Cl	-	-	-	2:58	4:03	-	-	H6:26	S6:38	-	-
23	Bellingen Church St & Hyde St	-	-	-	3:02	4:07	-	-	H6:30	S6:42	-	-
22	Bellingen McCristal Dr & Jagera Dr	-	-	-	3:06	4:11	-	-	H6:37	S6:49	-	-



Great Lakes & North Coast

150 151 152 Newcastle, Tea Gardens and Taree, effective 28/6/10

153 154 Bulahdelah, Upper Myall and Taree, effective 4/1/19

322 to 341 Port Macquarie Region, effective 19/7/20

340 to 355 Kempsey Region, effective 27/5/13

351 to 369 Coffs Harbour and Southern areas, effective 25/10/20

373 to 386 Grafton Region, effective 21/9/20

Western Sydney

668 669 Windsor & Richmond to Glossodia & Sackville, effective 26/5/19

671 672 679 741 Windsor to Riverstone and Pitt Town, effective 8/8/19

673 674 675A 675C 676 Windsor to Richmond, Penrith and Mt Druitt, effective 26/5/19

677 678 Penrith to Richmond, effective 26/5/19

680 682 Richmond to Kurrajong and Bowen Mountain, effective 26/5/19

718 743 744 Kings Langley, Seven Hills and Blacktown Industrial, effective 26/5/19

721 722 723 724 Blacktown to Mt Druitt, effective 26/5/19

723 728 729 738 739V Mt Druitt to Rooty Hill and Blacktown, effective 26/5/19

726 728 729 Mt Druitt to Rooty Hill and Blacktown, effective 26/5/19

730 Blacktown to Castle Hill, effective 26/5/19

731 735 Blacktown to Rouse Hill, effective 26/5/19

732 734 752 Blacktown to Rouse Hill and Riverstone, effective 26/5/19

742 746 747 757 Rouse Hill to Marsden Park and Mt Druitt, effective 18/11/19

745 St Marys to Bella Vista, effective 26/5/19

750 754 756 761 751 Mt Druitt to Blacktown, Plumpton and Bidwill, effective 22/7/19

751 Blacktown to Schofields and Rouse Hill, effective 18/11/19

753 Blacktown to Doonside, effective 26/5/19

755 758 759 Mt Druitt to Plumpton and St Marys, effective 26/5/19

770 771 774 Penrith to St Marys and Mt Druitt, effective 22/7/19

775 776 779 Penrith to St Marys and Mt Druitt, effective 26/5/19

780 782 785 Penrith to Werrington, St Marys and Mt Druitt, effective 22/7/19

781 789 795 Penrith, St Marys, Luddenham and Warragamba, effective 26/5/19

783 784 786 Penrith to Jordan Springs, effective 26/5/19

791 793 794 Penrith to Jamisontown, effective 22/7/19

794 795 797 799 Penrith to Glenmore Park, effective 26/5/19

S7 Blacktown to Stanhope Gardens, effective 26/5/19

S11 St Marys to St Clair, effective 26/5/19

S13 Penrith Shopper Hopper, effective 26/5/19

Report provided by HILAIRE FRASER

Bus contracts held

The following is a recent list of Transport for NSW bus contracts held by operators in the greater Sydney region:

Busabout: SMBSC 015.

Busways: SMBSC 001 and OSMBSC 006.

CDC: SMBSC 004 and 014; OSMBSC 002, 004, 008 and 011; NightRide contracts 031, 050, 060, 061, 070, 071, 080 and 092; Major Event contracts 001B, 005A, 005B and 008.

Dions: OSMBSC 012.

Interline: SMBSC 002.

Keolis Downer: NISC 001.

Port Stephens: OSMBSC 003.

Premier: OSMBSC 009 and 010.

Punchbowl Bus Co.: SMBSC 005; NightRide contract 020; Major Event contract 007.

Red Bus: OSMBSC 007.

Rover Coaches: OSMBSC 001.

State Transit: SMBSC 007, 008 and 009; NightRide contracts 010, 011, 090 and 091; Major Event contracts 001A and 004.

Transdev: SMBSC 010, 012 and 013; NightRide contracts 030 and 040; Major Event contracts 002 and 006.

Transit Systems: SMBSC 003 and SBSC 006.

Transport for NSW is currently in the process of tendering the contracts for the remaining government-operated (State Transit) SMBSC regions 7, 8 and 9 to private operators, while almost all of the privately-operated SMBSC contracts are also slated for re-tendering by 2023.

Table Talk Editor's comments: The above list excludes rail replacement (trackwork) contracts which the Table Talk Editor has been unable to verify by the time of publication.

It should also be noted that some of the players operate their services under different operating brands (for example, CDC variously operates under the

Hillsbus, Forest, Hunter Valley Buses, Coastal Liner, and Blue Mountains Transit brands), although the government has significantly watered-down much of the power of an operator's brand as part of the customer experience in the past decade.

SMBSC – Sydney Metropolitan Bus Service Contract.

SBSC – Sydney Bus Service Contract.

OSMBSC – Outer Sydney Metropolitan Bus Service Contract.

NISC – Newcastle Integrated Services Contract.

TRANSPORT FOR NSW

VICTORIA



V/Line COVID-19 service changes

Services that operate across the Murray into New South Wales were once again impacted by border restrictions announced between Christmas and the New Year.

The following coach services are affected:

- Adelaide – Albury terminates at Wodonga.
- Albury – Adelaide originates from Wodonga.
- Albury – Kerang originates from Wodonga;
- Albury – Seymour originates from Wodonga.
- Albury – Wangaratta originates from Wodonga.
- Bairnsdale – Batemans Bay terminates at Genoa.
- Bairnsdale – Canberra is cancelled until further notice.
- Bairnsdale – Narooma terminates at Genoa.
- Barham – Melbourne originates from Koondrook.
- Batemans Bay – Bairnsdale originates from Genoa.
- Bendigo – Mildura does not stop in Euston, NSW.
- Bendigo – Moama terminates at Echuca.
- Bendigo – Swan Hill does not stop in Euston, NSW.
- Benalla – Mulwala terminates at Yarrawonga.
- Canberra – Bairnsdale is suspended until further notice.
- Canberra – Wodonga is suspended until further notice.

- Corowa – Wangaratta originates from Wagunya.
- Deniliquin – Melbourne originates from Echuca.
- Griffith – Shepparton originates from Cobram.
- Kerang – Albury terminates at Wodonga.
- Melbourne – Deniliquin terminates at Echuca.
- Melbourne – Moama terminates at Echuca.
- Melbourne – Barham terminates at Koondrook.
- Mildura – Bendigo does not stop in Euston, NSW.
- Mildura – Swan Hill does not stop in Euston, NSW.
- Moama – Bendigo originates from Echuca.
- Moama – Melbourne originates from Echuca.
- Moama – Murchison East originates from Echuca.
- Moama – Seymour terminates at Echuca.
- Moama – Shepparton originates from Echuca.
- Mulwala – Benalla originates from Yarrawonga
- Murchison East – Moama terminates at Echuca.
- Narooma – Bairnsdale originates from Genoa.
- Seymour – Albury terminates at Wodonga.
- Seymour – Moama terminates at Echuca.
- Seymour – Tocumwal terminates at Cobram.
- Shepparton – Griffith terminates at Cobram.
- Shepparton – Moama terminates at Echuca.
- Shepparton – Tocumwal terminates at Cobram.
- Swan Hill – Mildura does not stop in Euston, NSW.
- Tocumwal – Seymour originates from Cobram.
- Tocumwal – Shepparton originates from Cobram.
- Wangaratta – Albury terminates at Wodonga.
- Wangaratta – Corowa terminates at Wagunya.
- Wodonga – Canberra is suspended until further notice. **STEVEN HABY, V/LINE**

Upgraded Sale bus network

For the second time in almost a year, Sale's bus network has been revised. Commencing from Monday, 1 February, features of the revision include a longer span of weekday trips and, for the first time, a Saturday service.

The following network will be in place:

- **1** (Sale – Port of Sale – Hospital) – follows the path of existing route 1 with trips ex city terminal at 06:15, 07:30, 09:00, 10:34, 12:00, 13:25, 15:30, 16:35 and 18:00 weekdays. Saturday trips depart city terminal at 08:15, 09:55, 12:15, 14:15 and 16:50.
- **2** (Sale – Gippsland Regional Sports Complex) – route extended to serve the Port of Sale, Gippsland Regional Sports Complex and Cobains Road. Weekday trips ex city terminal commence at 06:37 (Guthridge Road), 08:20, 09:35, 11:25, 12:45, 14:00, 15:12, 17:15 and 18:45. Saturday trips commence at 07:30, 09:15, 11:30, 13:25, 15:45 and 18:00.
- **3** (Sale – Wurruck) – the route is extended to serve the Port of Sale with weekday trips commencing at 07:35, 09:50, 14:15 and 17:30 ex Wurruck; and commence on Saturdays at 08:45, 11:45, 14:45 and 16:35.
- **4** (Sale – Sale station) – trips commence at 07:00 (Thomson Street), 10:06, 13:33 and 16:11 weekdays; and commence on Saturdays at 10:30, 13:34, 15:10 and 17:33. All services are extended to Port of Sale, and connect with rail services.
- New route **5** (Sale – Glebe Estate) – operates via the Port of Sale and TAFE campus with weekday trips ex city terminal at 07:47, 12:00 and 14:00. Saturday trips commence at 10:55, 14:00 and 16:20. A one-way trip will take 16 minutes end-to-end.
- New route **6** (Sale – Glenhaven Park) – operates via the Port of Sale and the Royal Freemasons Residential Aged Care Centre. Weekday trips ex city terminal commence at 08:35, 10:45, 12:35, 14:45 and 16:40. Saturday trips commence at 09:55, 12:05 and 15:35, with a one-way trip taking 14 minutes end-to-end.

- **7** (Sale – Longford – Loch Sport) has been allocated this route number and an increase to two return services a day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with public holiday services. However, the timetable (**see the image provided below**) does not reflect what was included in the PTV media release. Trips ex Sale commence at 13:20 (Wednesdays only) and 16:15 (Mondays and Fridays). Trips ex Loch Sport commence at 09:30 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only.

STEVEN HABY, PTV

New (old) routes 888 and 889

PTV continues to recycle old route numbers. From March, route numbers 888 and 889 will be allocated to two new routes servicing Berwick station and the suburbs of Clyde & Clyde North.

Tenders have been called for expressions of interest in operating these routes.

Further details in forthcoming issues of *Table Talk*.
STEVEN HABY, MELBOURNE TRANSPORT GROUP

PTV cross-border services

It appears that cross border services that operate in Mildura, Wodonga / Albury, Echuca / Moama and some local services continue to operate. STEVEN HABY, PTV

Wyndham Vale

The state treasurer, Tim Pallas, has provided a ten-year timeframe for electrification of the rail line out west to Wyndham Vale. The treasurer confirmed that other projects, like Geelong Fast Rail and a line to the Airport, were higher priorities on the government's list.
THE AGE

Route : Sale via Longford		Monday to Friday											
Day Restrictions	MWF												
Morning (am) / Afternoon (pm)	am												
Wallsby St/Swan St (Loch Sport)	H9:30												
National Park Ent/National Park Rd (Loch Sport)	H9:35												
Camerons Rd/National Park Rd (Loch Sport)	H9:45												
Seacombe - Sperm Whale Head Rd/Longford Loch Sport Rd (Golden ...)	H10:08												
Golden Beach Community Hall/Longford-Golden Beach Rd (Golden B...)	H10:10												
Johnsons Rd/Longford-Loch Sport Rd (Dutson)	H10:22												
Murtnaugh Rd/Longford-Loch Sport Rd (Dutson)	H10:23												
Merricks Rd/Longford-Loch Sport Rd (Longford)	H10:26												
Glencoe Trailers/Longford-Loch Sport Rd (Longford)	H10:30												
Brennans Rd/South Gippsland Hwy (Longford)	H10:31												
Gippsland Shopping Centre/Cunninghame St (Sale)	H10:40												
Marley St/MacArthur St (Sale)	10:41												
Elgin St/Macalister St (Sale)	10:44												
Central Gippsland Hospital/Guthridge Pde (Sale)	10:45												
Service Information													
MWF = Operates Monday, Wednesday and Friday H = Paradise Beach passengers must book by telephoning Little's Coaches on 5144 2623 by 4PM the previous day													

Ballarat line disruption

Services were cancelled throughout the day on Monday, 7 December due to inundation of tumbleweed between Rowsley and Bank Box Loops. Reports on Nine News Local's Ballarat bulletin broadcast on the local Southern Cross Nine station showed images of tumbleweed inundating vast areas since the previous Saturday.

Source supplied by **GEOFF LAMBERT**

Source – **THE BALLARAT COURIER**

Rowville Telebus replaced by FlexiRide

On 14 December, the Rowville Telebus service was replaced by a new 'on demand' service - branded as FlexiRide.

Operating only as required (i.e. when pre-booked), the service runs between Rowville and Ferntree Gully

servicing areas previously covered by Telebus areas 7 to 9. It operates on weekdays only between 06:00 and 20:00. Bookings can be made up to seven days in advance.

The FlexiRide mobile application can be downloaded from the Google Play or Apple App stores. A similar service already operates in Woodend. **STEVEN HABY, PTV**



Rowville FlexiRide route map (source: PTV).

Zero emission bus fleet

The state government's 2020 budget in October provided \$20 million in funding for a zero-emission bus (ZEB) fleet trial over three years. The trial will involve the use of different technologies across different parts of the state in order to find a solution for the state to work towards meeting its legislated 2050 deadline of a zero net emissions in its bus fleet. This differs to northern neighbour, New South Wales (NSW), whose government has placed an ambitious 2030 deadline to have a fully zero-emission bus fleet across its own network.

NSW's Transport Minister, Andrew Constance, confirmed that a safety awareness campaign will need to be run by Transport for NSW because the electric buses "are so quiet, you can't hear them coming – they just creep up on you".

On the electric bus already being trialled in Victoria, running on Transdev's route 251, the government had said that the bus had travelled almost 1,000 kilometres on only two recharges, demonstrating the efficiency of its 324kW Lithium-Phosphate batteries. **VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT, AUSTRALIAN BUS & COACH MAGAZINE, THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, NINE NEWS**

TASMANIA



Northern service changes

The Tasmanian Department of State Growth has provided timetables and route maps on transport.tas.gov.au for service changes to be introduced on 17 January 2021. These changes were delayed from an introduction planned for April 2020.

New Devonport Bus Route Network from Devonport City Centre (except 182)

- 170 West Devonport/North Devonport clockwise
- 171 West Devonport/North Devonport anti-clockwise
- 172 South Devonport (Don College)
- 173 South Devonport (Aquatic Centre)
- 174 South Devonport (Homemaker Centre)
- 175 East Devonport
- 176 Ambleside
- 178 Latrobe
- 180 Ulverstone
- 182 Ulverstone-West Ulverstone
- 183 Port Sorell
- 184 Sheffield

New Burnie Bus Route Network from Burnie City Centre

- 190 Penguin
- 191 Emu Heights via Havenview
- 192 Acton/Montello clockwise
- 193 Acton/Montello anti-clockwise
- 194 Shorewell Park clockwise
- 195 Shorewell Park anticlockwise
- 196 Brooklyn via Hillcrest
- 197 Wynyard

North West Regional Services

708 North West Express (Devonport-Burnie)
747 Burnie-Strahan (existing service)
762 Launceston-Mole Creek (existing service)
768 Burnie-Smithton

Intercity Services

700 Hobart-Launceston Limited Stops
702 Hobart-Launceston All Stops
705 Launceston-Devonport

Report kindly provided by HILAIRE FRASER

Infrastructure investment

The state government announced in its 2020 Budget that it had set aside \$5 billion for Infrastructure Tasmania (iTas), with an additional \$7.8 billion over the following few years.

With the injection, iTas will have an increased scope within the strategy, policy and planning of government infrastructure investment, and will provide priority project delivery services, project assurance, and greater capital delivery capacity and monitoring.

The body had previously worked on projects including the Bruny Island Ferry Service. **INFRASTRUCTURE MAGAZINE**

service frequency between East Perth and Booragoon.

- **284** (Belmont Forum-Curtin Uni.): Monday to Friday off-peak frequency reduced from 60 minutes to 120 minutes.
- **448** (Warwick-Kingsway City): Monday to Friday off-peak frequency reduced from 30 minutes to 60 minutes.
- **483 & 484** (Clarkson-Alkimos): Fewer peak trips.
- **548** (Fremantle-Rockingham): Monday to Friday off-peak frequency reduced from 30 minutes to 60 minutes.
- **549** (Fremantle-Rockingham): Monday to Friday off-peak frequency reduced from 15 minutes to 30 minutes. Trips have been timed to run in co-ordination with route 530 services along Rockingham Road.
- **935** (Kings Park-Belmont Forum/Perth Airport): Some late night trips between Belmont Forum and Perth Airport have been withdrawn.

Transperth advises the reduction of services on routes 33, 111, 114, 160, 284, 448, 483, 484, 548 and 549 were due to "poor patronage" and part of an initiative to more efficiently deliver transport services across the Transperth network. For example, some passengers now need to change buses or change between modes (i.e.: bus and train).

Report kindly provided by HILAIRE FRASER with additional sourcing from TRANSPERTH

Stirling Bus Interchange

The state government confirmed in December it would match the federal government's \$45 million investment in the Stirling Bus Interchange upgrade. Part of the Stephenson Avenue Extension Project, and adjoining Stirling railway station, the plan includes adding an extra 12 bus stop 'stands' to the existing 18, and a new pedestrian bridge between the railway station and car park in an area expected to grow significantly over the coming decade. **AUSTRALIAN BUS & COACH MAGAZINE**

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington: Bus cancellations

Cancellation of bus services across Wellington has reared its head again in early December as a source of commuter frustration. Metlink acknowledged that it needs more drivers to run its timetable as a result of higher levels of employee leave over the Christmas

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Perth service changes

From Sunday, 20 December, the following changes came into effect:

- **33** (Perth-Karawara): Route shortened to operate between Perth and Curtin Central.
- **111** (Perth-Fremantle via Kwinana Freeway): Fewer off-peak trips.
- **114** (Perth-Munster): Monday to Friday off-peak and Saturday frequencies reduced from 30 minutes to 60 minutes.
- **158** (Perth-Fremantle via Attadale): Monday to Friday off-peak trips replaced by shortened route 148 services connecting with trains at Canning Bridge station for journeys towards the city.
- **160** (East Perth-Booragoon): Monday to Friday short-workings in the off-peak withdrawn, leaving a 60-minute frequency on the through '160 East Perth-Fremantle via Booragoon & Willagee' service. Halving in



break, and recent changes to driver rest-break legislation & route extensions in the city centre.

Metlink said the impacts would be relieved by school holidays in the following weeks, and it was also trying to give passengers as much notice as possible on service cancellations.

However, the Tramways Union argues differently, saying that poor working conditions have led to an increase in resignations of drivers. The Union said that 40 drivers had resigned from NZ Bus across October and November. **THE DOMINION POST (2)**

Wellington: AirportFlyer

Since 28 November, Wellington's AirportFlyer ceased to operate under NZ Bus. The service is now suspended pending the start of a new contract with Tranzit, which Wellington Airport said would be by end of March.

As previously reported, when the service resumes, it will only operate between the city centre and the Airport, skipping the Hutt Valley due to poor patronage and lack of commercial viability. **STUFF.CO.NZ, THE DOMINION POST**

Wellington: Bus drivers threaten delays

In a letter to local mayors, Tranzurban drivers have threatened to start driving to locations with toilet facilities during their rostered rest breaks from a date no later than 1 January 2021.

In July 2018, Tranzurban's driver rosters began to schedule some rest breaks at random bus stops and terminals which did not necessarily have toilet facilities immediately available for drivers.

The Tramways Union secretary, Kevin O'Sullivan, said the situation was "awful", and had been made worse because of the age profile of the drivers. According to Stats NZ, bus driving has the highest average employee age of any industry in the country – 54.

The letter explained "drivers will have no further options but to drive to the nearest public convenience some distance away, incurring late running and disruption to timetabled services". **THE DOMINION POST**

Wellington: Electric bus fleet

The Greater Wellington Regional Council announced in early December that it would ensure all commuter buses were electric by 2027. It would do this by not considering any bids from bus operators with non-electric buses in their fleets when tendering the new commuter bus contracts which will start operating from 2027.

Greater Wellington's transport committee chairperson, Roger Blakeley, said "this is quite a bold move. It would put Wellington among the most progressive cities in the world in terms of public transport. Not many places outside of China have moved as quickly".

He also defended the move, saying that the prices of electric buses had fallen dramatically in recent years, and newer models had lower operating and maintenance costs.

One existing operator, Tranzurban, recently secured government funding to convert two of its diesel double-decker buses to use electric motors. **THE DOMINION POST**

Transdev enters ride-share market

On 30 November, Transdev launched its new MyMobigo on-demand service in eastern Auckland.

Using two minibuses, operated by Howick and Eastern Buses, the service is fully operated by Transdev without taxpayer support. Through the dedicated MyMobigo mobile application, the service connects passengers around Howick and Cockle Bay with the Half Moon Bay ferry terminal.

Transdev's NZ General Manager, Greg Pollock said "When you look at this area, you've got a fantastic ferry service, but at peak times it's congested and there's not much parking. We have researched this area, we know it well, but this is a trial, and we are looking to test in New Zealand, this model which we have tested and developed in other parts of the world". **STUFF.CO.NZ**

ENDS

FERRY & SHIP NEWS

NEW SOUTH WALES



Extra Manly Summer services

Temporary extra Summer services started operating on the F1 Manly service from 1 December. Ferries are now operating to an improved 20-minute frequency until 18:00 daily.

Editor's comment: As of 5 December, the extra services had not been added onto the mobile data feed. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

Part 1: Lane Cove ferry to end

The Lane Cove ferry ceased to operate after last service on Friday, 18 December. Service owner, Captain Cook Cruises, released a statement:

For many years the service has operated at a loss... we combined it each day with our Hop

On Hop Off Tourism service. However, as Tourism has been hit hard over the last 15 months, our ability to keep subsidising the service has declined... [Transport for NSW's recent] support has ended and we have had to make the tough decision to close the service.

subsidy, which has now ended. Transport for NSW declined to provide further subsidy for the privately-operated service into 2021.

A copy of the then-final timetable has been provided below.

Since July 2019, Transport for NSW had enabled the service to stay afloat with a temporary 18-month

CCLC City to Lane Cove




Valid from: 01 Jan 2020

Creation date: 04 Dec 2020

NOTE: Information is correct on date of download.

Weekdays Private School Terms	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Darling Harbour, Pier 26	-	-	-	17:10	-	-
Circular Quay	07:30	08:00	15:25	17:25	18:20	19:10
Kirribilli Wharf	-	-	15:30	-	-	-
Jeffrey Street Wharf	07:36	08:05	15:36	-	-	-
Balmain East Wharf	07:38	08:07	-	-	-	-
Birchgrove Wharf	07:42	08:11	-	-	-	-
Greenwich Point Wharf	07:44	08:13	-	-	-	-
Greenwich Wharf	07:50	08:16	-	17:37	18:32	19:22
Northwood Wharf, Northwood	07:53	08:19	-	17:41	18:35	19:25
Longueville Wharf, Longueville	07:57	08:23	-	17:44	18:39	19:29
Hunters Hill Wharf, Hunters Hill	08:01	08:26	15:51	17:47	18:43	19:33
Riverview College Wharf, Riverview	08:05	08:31	15:54	17:55	-	-
Darling Harbour, Pier 26	-	-	-	-	-	19:52
Weekdays Private School Holidays	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Darling Harbour, Pier 26	-	-	17:10	-	-	-
Circular Quay	07:30	08:00	17:25	18:20	19:10	-
Jeffrey Street Wharf	07:36	08:05	-	-	-	-
Greenwich Wharf	-	08:16	17:37	18:32	19:22	-
Northwood Wharf, Northwood	-	08:19	17:41	18:35	19:25	-
Longueville Wharf, Longueville	-	08:23	17:44	18:39	19:29	-
Hunters Hill Wharf, Hunters Hill	08:01	08:26	17:47	18:43	19:33	-
Darling Harbour, Pier 26	-	-	-	-	-	19:52

CCLC Lane Cove to City




Weekdays Private School Terms	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Riverview College Wharf, Riverview	-	-	-	-	15:54	17:55
Hunters Hill Wharf, Hunters Hill	07:00	07:30	08:01	08:26	16:00	-
Riverview College Wharf, Riverview	-	-	08:05	08:31	-	-
Longueville Wharf, Longueville	07:05	07:35	08:11	08:35	16:05	-
Northwood Wharf, Northwood	07:10	07:40	08:16	08:39	16:09	-
Greenwich Wharf	07:15	07:45	08:19	08:42	16:12	-
Greenwich Point Wharf	-	-	-	-	16:16	-
Birchgrove Wharf	-	-	-	-	16:18	18:05
Balmain East Wharf	-	-	-	-	16:20	18:07
Circular Quay	07:30	08:00	08:35	08:56	16:26	18:15
Jeffrey Street Wharf	07:36	08:05	08:41	-	16:30	-
Balmain East Wharf	-	-	08:43	09:00	-	-
Darling Harbour, Pier 26	-	-	08:51	09:10	16:43	-
Weekdays Private School Holidays	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
Hunters Hill Wharf, Hunters Hill	07:00	07:30	08:01	08:26	-	-
Longueville Wharf, Longueville	07:05	07:35	08:11	08:35	-	-
Northwood Wharf, Northwood	07:10	07:40	08:16	08:39	-	-
Greenwich Wharf	07:15	07:45	08:19	08:42	-	-
Circular Quay	07:30	08:00	08:35	08:56	-	-
Jeffrey Street Wharf	07:36	08:05	08:41	-	-	-
Balmain East Wharf	-	-	08:43	-	-	-
Darling Harbour, Pier 26	-	-	08:51	09:10	-	-

In light of this news, Transport for NSW announced it had arranged for Transit Systems and State Transit to operate special school buses for St Ignatius College Riverview (SICR) students beginning from the start of first term (28 January) in 2021 as follows:

- Route **782S** – Balmain East Wharf to SICR
- Route **783S** – Woolwich to SICR
- Route **797W** – QVB (City) to SICR

Each route will have one service operating to the school in the morning, and one service operating from the school in the afternoon.

Transport for NSW has estimated the routes to run for around 35 minutes end-to-end. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW, ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE RIVERVIEW, SEALINK**

Part 2: Lane Cove ferry not ending

Transport for NSW announced on Wednesday 16 December that the decision to not rollover the service subsidy on Captain Cook's Lane Cove ferry service had been overturned following a review of "community and stakeholder feedback".

As a result, the plan to commence operating the above listed 782S, 783S and 797W school bus services has been cancelled.

Transport for NSW said it would review longer-term options for the service in the new year. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

Freshwater retirement

The state government has relented to community pressure, announcing it will retain one of the Freshwater-class ferries "acknowledging the community's strong attachment to the[m]" until 2023.

The retained ferry, the Collaroy, will operate passenger services on weekends.

The state government has reported it is expecting \$6 million in annual savings on operating and maintenance costs by modernising the fleet, which is used on the Manly route. In addition, the government claims it will be able to schedule additional services due to shorter journey times. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

VICTORIA



Port Phillip Ferries

A full seven-day-a-week service commenced from January 2021 on the Geelong and Portarlington to Melbourne services. Each location has two return trips a day. Tickets must be pre-booked, while face masks

are mandatory. *Table Talk's* Bus Editor, Steven Haby, said that a trip he took on the 11:15 Geelong service on Saturday 2 January had 90 passengers on board.

A new timetable will be due for release by the end of January. **STEVEN HABY**

ENDS

AIR NEWS

DOMESTIC



Qantas

Qantas chief executive, Alan Joyce, confirmed that November's border re-openings saw strong demand for both business and leisure tickets domestically - "there's been a rush of bookings as each border restriction lifted". He also revealed that Qantas had sold 200,000 tickets within the first 72 hours of Queensland lifting its restrictions to both New South Wales and Victoria.

With the unlikelihood of the international market reopening any time soon, Mr Joyce said the airline hoped to see travel bubbles with nations that had successfully contained COVID-19, including Taiwan, New Zealand (two-way), and Korea.

Source supplied by - ROSS MORRISON

Source - NEWS.COM.AU

COVID-19 update

As expected, Qantas and Virgin slashed capacity on key routes from Sydney following the return of border restrictions from the latest COVID-19 outbreak in Sydney's northern beaches in late December.

From an hourly service back in early December on the main Sydney – Melbourne trunk route, now there are only a handful of flights each week as at early January. **STEVEN HABY**

Qantas regional network update

Qantas announced the following services to commence in 2021:

- *Adelaide – Mount Gambier* from 28 March,
- *Albury – Melbourne* from 28 March,
- *Griffith – Sydney* from 1 February,
- *Melbourne – Merimbula* from 1 February,

- Melbourne – Mount Gambier from 28 March,
- Melbourne – Newcastle from 1 February, and
- Melbourne – Wagga Wagga from 28 March.

STEVEN HABY

- Limits international cruise ship arrivals, and
- Restricts the operation of retail stores in international airports.

For the period 18 March to November 2020, there were around 95,000 exemptions provided to international departures.

For the moment, the country has a one-way travel bubble with New Zealand. **THE AGE, AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT**

Rex Airlines

On 23 December, the first of several Boeing 737's arrived in Sydney in full Rex (Regional Express) livery intended for service on the Melbourne – Sydney corridor in direct competition with Virgin and Qantas. According to the airline's website, flights will commence from 1 March. An indicative timetable is provided on the back cover.

Meanwhile, it is noted that Rex's *Mildura – Adelaide* flights resumed from Monday 4 January. **STEVEN HABY**

Lufthansa loses six aircraft

In early November, Lufthansa effectively lost control of six of their B747s for a week after local safety authorities in the Dutch city of Enschede blocked the airline's plans for the aircraft to take-off from long-term storage at Twente Airport.

Local authorities say, from a safety perspective, the runways have been deemed unsuitable for larger aircraft to take-off from the airport, although they were still able to land without issue. Lufthansa's chief executive officer, Meiltje de Groot, said the situation was "too absurd for words. It is incomprehensible that there is a sudden blockage".

After negotiations, local authorities allowed Lufthansa to take back their planes, however they were to take-off with "minimal fuel" to keep the weight of each plane down as much as possible.

The planes were taken out of storage for decommissioning, following an operational and financial review of the airline, which saw the airline needing to downsize its scale in light of the effects of COVID-19 on its business. **SAMCHUI.COM, TUBANTIA**

Coffs Harbour Airport

Management of the Coffs Harbour Airport has been passed out to private enterprise as part of a long-term lease agreement. Coffs Harbour City Council has signed a 50-year deal that will see Palisade Investment Partners lease the airport and neighbouring 23-hectare Airport Enterprise Park. In return, Council will receive a \$25 million up-front payment, another \$56 million in fixed payments over the next seven years, and a share of operating revenue. Palisade has also secured an option to extend the agreement for a further 49 years. Council estimates it will receive around \$200 million in revenue share over the initial 50-year period.

An experienced airport operator, Palisade already runs airports at Alice Springs, Darwin, Tennant Creek and Sunshine Coast. **WIN NEWS NORTHERN NSW, COUNCIL NEWS**

UK COVID-19 outbreak

Dozens of countries stopped flights to/from the United Kingdom in December due to the UK's worsening COVID-19 situation. Countries included Germany, Italy, France, Israel, Denmark, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Colombia.

This particular reaction was in light of a new UK-strain of the virus, B117, which saw transmission soar. The UK's Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, said the new strain had accounted for around two-thirds of new cases in London in mid-December. **AL JAZEERA, FORBES**

Moranbah Airport

WIN News reported on 11 December that Moranbah Airport had been officially renamed as 'Moranbah Bunhdhara Airport' in recognition of the local indigenous community. **WIN NEWS CENTRAL QUEENSLAND**

INTERNATIONAL



Australia maintains exclusion

In December, Australia's emergency powers to prevent and control COVID-19 were extended by another three months to 17 March after acceptance by the Governor-General on 10 December. It:

- Bans people from exiting the country without an acceptable reason,

HK-Singapore travel bubble

Hopes for the establishment of a travel bubble between Hong Kong and Singapore were dashed in late November following ongoing battles with COVID-19 across the world.

While on the back-burner for now, the plans may resurface dependant on the progress made by upcoming vaccines on COVID-19 infection rates, according to Hong Kong's Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.

Hong Kong endured their fourth wave of infections in late November, with all incoming persons from outside Taiwan, Macau and mainland China now required to quarantine in a hotel for 21 days. **SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST**

Singapore Airlines

Whilst running only 11 per cent of its usual pre-COVID flight schedule, and hauling only 1.4 per cent of its usual customer numbers in September, Singapore Airlines Group ratcheted a \$AU2.27 billion loss in the third quarter of calendar year 2020 alone.

As a result of ongoing losses, the business will now reduce its fleet by 12 per cent including the retirement of nine A320s, seven A380s, four B777-200s, four B777-300s, and two A319s. It will also convert four aircraft (two B777-200s and two A320neo's) for use in its cargo business. **SAMCHUI.COM**

Emirates

Emirates declared a predicted heavy loss in its half-yearly results presentation. For the period, 1 March to 30 September, the Emirates Group realised a net loss of \$AU5 billion, with revenue down 74 per cent.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairperson and Chief Executive, said it was the airline's first half-yearly loss "in over 30 years", however the Group has "been able to heavily pivot to serve cargo demand and other pockets of opportunity... to recover our revenues from zero to 26 per cent" of last year's position. He also made mention of management's expectation of "a steep recovery in demand once a vaccine is available and we are readying ourselves to serve that rebound".

Despite many airlines looking to downscale or dispose of their A380 aircraft in a post-COVID world due to its operational costs, its President, Sir Tim Clark, has said that Emirates would continue to use its A380s – and it would still take delivery of another eight of the aircraft that it has left on order with Airbus - "The A380 was probably the best thing that could have happened to Emirates and certainly Dubai. It has been enormously successful for us. We value it enormously, we regret the fact it's gone out of production, but that is testament to the strength of our business model, where others have tried to use it and failed". For the moment, the airline operates the A380 on selected flights from Dubai to London and Paris. **SAMCHUI.COM, AVIATION BUSINESS**

Abu Dhabi

From 24 December, Abu Dhabi resumed welcoming international travellers into the country. As part of its refined procedure of processing the risk of particular countries, the emirate has released a list of "green countries" from which travellers are exempt from quarantine. They include Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Mongolia and New Zealand. They are

still required to have received a negative COVID-19 test taken within 96 hours from departure from their home country. Another test is taken upon arrival in Abu Dhabi.

For anyone from a non-green country, the mandatory quarantine period is set for 10 days. See visitabudhabi.ae for the whole procedure.

Abu Dhabi regularly reviews the lists and criteria. **VISIT ABU DHABI**

Camair-Co readies for privatisation

Cameroon carrier, Camair-Co is being readied for partial privatisation by the Cameroon government. The President has been reported to be looking for a private buyer to take a 51 per cent stake in the business.

Formed in 2006, the airline, which replaced Cameroon Air, has reportedly lost money every year since its inception. **AFRICAN INTELLIGENCE**

Air India up for bids

Air India, billions in debt and on the receiving end of a bailout recently, may soon have a new major shareholder, as the Indian government looks to sell part or all of its stake in the financially-crippled airline.

Reportedly, original owner and founder of the airline, Tata Group has put forward a bid, as has SpiceJet chief executive Ajay Singh, and an American-based investment firm, Interups – although they have not been officially announced. The Interups plan would see Interups owning 49 per cent with the remaining 51 per cent controlling stake owned by employees. The interesting part is that Interups would effectively buy out 100 per cent using its own money then give 51 per cent to the employees. Interups chairperson, Laxmi Prasad, said the controlling share would be "in exchange for the deep contribution [the staff] would be making for the airline".

Key assets in the business include a fleet of over 100 planes, thousands of trained pilots and crew, and key slots at London's Heathrow Airport. However, as part of the bidding process, the Indian government has mandated that buyers would not be able to lay off any employees within the first 12 months, and no more than a quarter of the total assets would be able to be disposed of. **BBC NEWS, SIMPLEFLYING.COM**

New Japanese carrier

SamChui.com has reported on plans by All Nippon Airways (ANA) to launch a new carrier for "low-cost, medium-distance flights" across south-east Asia and Oceania to capture "Asian growth markets" using B747 Dreamliner aircraft from the Air Japan charter business. The unnamed carrier will be positioned in-between their existing "universal service" ANA and the discount *Peach* brands.

This news forms part of the review outcomes from ANA to successfully operate in the COVID-normal environment. **SAMCHUI.COM**

British Airways B747's final flight

On Friday, 11 December, British Airways flew its final Boeing 747 flight from Cardiff Airport to a business park in St Athan, where it will be preserved.
SAMCHUI.COM

cater for both types of travellers on board its flights. Whilst the preference remains for its passengers to use a face mask, in light of COVID-19, passengers without a face mask will now be seated together in the last two rows of Economy – a sort of detention area.

A spokesperson said that the two rows are dedicated "to passengers who declare their refusal to use masks after doors close". SAMCHUI.COM

Mask v Non-mask

Russian airline Aeroflot has reportedly designated "mask" and "non-masked" sections of its aircraft to

ENDS

Schedule for Melbourne to Sydney			Days Available							Effective	
Flight No	Depart	Arrive	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Eff. From	Eff. To
ZL 010	06:00	07:30		●	●	●	●	●		01-MAR	07-MAR
ZL 018	07:00	08:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	01-MAR	01-FEB
ZL 026	08:00	09:30					●		●	01-MAR	07-MAR
ZL 042	10:00	11:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	01-MAR	01-FEB
ZL 050	11:00	12:30		●	●	●		●		01-MAR	07-MAR
ZL 112	13:00	14:30					●		●	01-MAR	07-MAR
ZL 132	15:00	16:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	01-MAR	01-FEB
ZL 142	16:00	17:30		●	●	●				01-MAR	07-MAR
ZL 152	17:00	18:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	01-MAR	01-FEB
ZL 162	18:00	19:30					●		●	01-MAR	07-MAR
ZL 182	20:00	21:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	01-MAR	01-FEB
ZL 102	12:00	13:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	02-MAR	02-FEB
ZL 050	11:00	12:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	08-MAR	28-MAR
ZL 142	16:00	17:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	08-MAR	28-MAR
ZL 010	06:00	07:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	09-MAR	28-MAR
ZL 010	06:00	07:30	●	●	●					29-MAR	04-APR
ZL 026	08:00	09:30					●	●		29-MAR	04-APR
ZL 050	11:00	12:30	●	●	●			●	●	29-MAR	04-APR
ZL 112	13:00	14:30					●	●		29-MAR	04-APR
ZL 142	16:00	17:30	●	●	●				●	29-MAR	04-APR
ZL 162	18:00	19:30					●	●		29-MAR	04-APR

Regional Express – upcoming Melbourne to Sydney flight timetable (Source: Regional Express)

About Table Talk

Print ISSN 1038-3697, Online ISSN 2209-718X.

Table Talk is a monthly publication produced by the Australian Timetable Association Inc. (ATA) (Registration No. A0043673H) as a journal of record covering timetable and other transport-related news. The ATA also publishes **The Times** covering timetable history and analysis. **Table Talk Newswire** is an advanced and concise monthly email of Rail News. To obtain this, contact the Rail Editor. ABN 74248483468.

All times listed in **Table Talk** are in 24-hour time, unless stated otherwise. Any commentary or letters provided by individuals within **Table Talk** are not to be taken as a representation of the views of the Australian Timetable Association, its Committee or its Editor(s). Original material appearing in **Table Talk** may be reproduced in other publications with kind acknowledgement. The ATA's members often contribute items for consideration in **Table Talk** for which kind acknowledgement is made, however, most articles are re-written for **Table Talk** by the Editor. Contributions are invited and welcome at all times – please send these to the appropriate Editor.

Membership of the Australian Timetable Association includes monthly copies of *The Times*, *Table Talk*, the ATA Distribution List of timetables, and Auction catalogues. The membership fee is Adult \$60, Student \$36, Family \$5 pa. All membership enquiries should be directed to our Membership Officer, Len Regan, at membership@timetable.org.au.

Back issues of *Table Talk* are available on our website, www.timetable.org.au, after two months from print publication.

Editor for Rail, Tram, Air and Ferry & Ship: Chris Pandilovski, tabletalk@timetable.org.au.

Editor for Bus: Steven Haby, busnews@timetable.org.au.

Production and Mailout: Geoff and Judy Lambert.

Proofreaders: Agnes Boskovitz, David Cranney and Geoff Hassall.

Table Talk is a production of the **Australian Timetable Association**