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TABLE TALK

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RAIL & TRAM NEWS

QUEENSLAND



Translink turns pink

At the end of March 2022, Translink released its new corporate colours. Blue, green and orange have been replaced by navy blue, neon pink and aqua.

The navy blue and neon pink colours have already been used for the smart ticketing project in which commuters can tap on and off using a Visa, Mastercard or American Express contactless debit or credit card, smartphone or smartwatch to pay for adult fares across G:link on the Gold Coast.

The pink smart ticketing devices are now being installed on Brisbane suburban railway stations. Channel 7 Brisbane and *The Courier Mail* reported that it cost \$110,000 to design the new pink logo. A navy-blue version of the new logo is also used.

Currently, GO cards are blue for adult fares, green for concession fares and orange for child fares. Smart ticketing information shows these GO cards in the new colours.

26 out of the suite of 31 Gold Coast bus timetables now appear in the new blue and pink branding scheme, although route maps so far retain the black and green. The home screen on the Translink homepage shows an aqua and white bus crossing the Storey Bridge and the new Gold Coast 'on demand' bus service has vehicles in the new aqua colour scheme. Currently, green is the colour on buses, although Brisbane City Council buses have retained their blue and yellow colours.

A bus stop at Fernvale on the Brisbane Valley Highway has been observed in the new blue and pink scheme.
Report by HILAIRE FRASER



Dutton Park and Yeronga boost

Both Dutton Park and Yeronga stations are enjoying a return to full service levels, resuming from Tuesday 26 April. Translink says that, since August 2021, eight Beenleigh line services have had altered running to operate express into the City due to Cross River Rail works, skipping these two stations. **TRANSLINK**



Above: New and old Translink logos/colours.

Bottom left: Mitsubishi Primo 'on demand' bus in the new Translink logo and livery (all source: Translink).

NEW SOUTH WALES



Sydney Trains timetable update

A revised Standard Working TimeTable will come into effect on Sydney's rail network from Saturday, 4 June 2022. Designated as version 9.31, the revision will include minor timetable alterations to improve service reliability and some set type/run number alterations to support ongoing projects (including the Tangara Technology Upgrade Stage Two). **SYDNEY TRAINS**

Industrial action

In the fallout from the 21 February network shutdown, initiated by Transport for NSW and Sydney Trains over safety concerns from the implications of a long list of Protected Industrial Action items, the combined rail unions and state government/Transport continued their negotiations, with a month of sustained bargaining between the parties across April. Culminating from the unions' request for every Friday to be fare-free until June, the state government agreed to provide 12 consecutive fare-free days for passengers as compensation for the impacts from the sudden network shutdown as well as adverse weather conditions, which hammered network reliability across Summer.

From 04:00 Thursday 14 to 03:59 Tuesday 26 April, passengers tapping on and off with their Opal (with a positive balance) or contactless card were not charged for their trips across the rail network. This initiative was also made valid on all regular Sydney bus, ferry and light rail services in an effort to provide the local economy with a boost, following ongoing impacts as a result of the pandemic. The initiative was valid across the wider Opal smartcard network, including Manly Fast Ferry and NRMA's electric ferry between King Street and Pyrmont Bay wharves. Naturally, there were some exceptions, including the Station Access Fee at Sydney Airport, and 'On Demand' bus services, which still charged their regular fares. The 12 days included the Easter long weekend and Anzac Day. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

South Coast disruption

The South Coast intercity line continued to be impacted by service disruptions into April. Bi-directional running was in force between Otford and Coledale following the reopening of the line in late March. There was another total closure between Waterfall/Helensburgh and Thirroul from impacts of further heavy rainfall in early April. On Monday 11 April, buses operated as follows:

- **48SC:** Helensburgh-Otford shuttle (half-hourly throughout the day until late). The shuttle also stops at Helensburgh township, which provides an interchange option with bus 57SC.
- **57SC:** Waterfall-Wollongong (all stops except Otford; every 30 minutes 05:40-01:40).
- **59SC:** Waterfall, Thirroul, Nth Wollongong, W'gong (express, every 15 minutes throughout the day or every 20-30 mins 05:37-01:42).

Services started from 03:25 ex Wollongong in the opposite direction for 57SC and 59SC routes.

From Tuesday 12 April onwards, the bussing operation was amended, operating to/from Sutherland, while buses also operated the three routes at an increased frequency of service. The altered running necessitated route number changes, with running as follows:

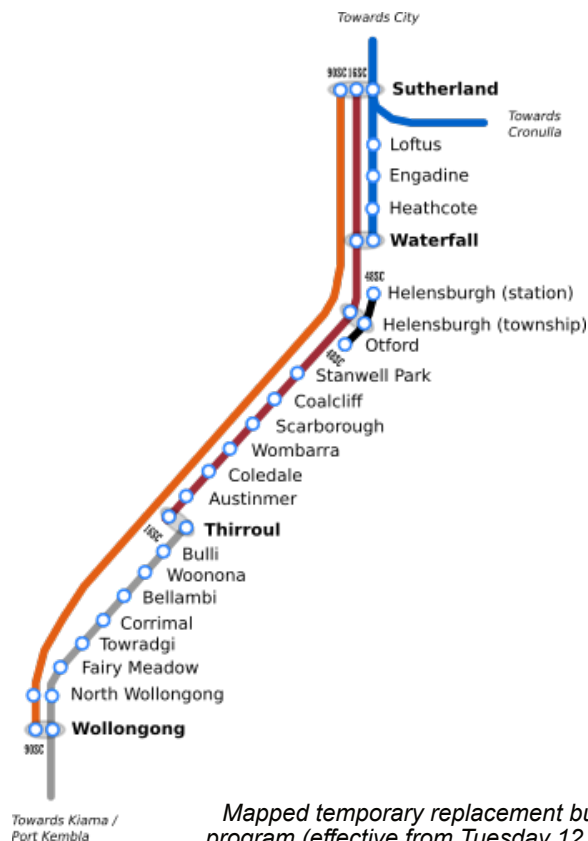
- **16SC:** Sutherland, Waterfall, Helensburgh (township), Stanwell Park, all stops to Thirroul (every 12 mins during the day, every 20 mins early/late).
- **48SC:** Helensburgh-Otford shuttle (every 20 mins, 04:00-01:30).
- **90SC:** Sutherland, Nth Wollongong, Wollongong (express, every 10 mins through the day, every 20 mins early/late). There is also a local regular route 90 bus that operates between Austinmer and Wollongong.

TRANSPORT FOR NSW, SYDNEY TRAINS

Parramatta Light Rail

Works on stage one of the project (Westmead - Carlingford) are well on their way to completion, with state Transport Minister David Elliott announcing that 99 per cent of track has now been laid along the route. With the line due to commence operation next year, works will mostly turn to construction of platform stops along the route, finishing works (landscaping), and construction of the stabling and maintenance facility at Rosehill.

The minister also reaffirmed his commitment to investigate local manufacturing opportunities for stage two of the project (Camellia/Rydalmere-Olympic Park).
PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL



VICTORIA



Level crossing removal & other occupations

Work continues apace with various level crossing removal projects affecting services on the Burnley group between Camberwell, Box Hill & Ringwood and the Caulfield group between both Berwick & Pakenham and Moorabbin & Frankston / Stony Point.

Camberwell - Box Hill - Ringwood

To facilitate works associated with the removal of the level crossings at Union Road in Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Road in Mont Albert, buses replaced trains from 20:30 Friday 25 March until 20:30 Friday 1 April between Camberwell and Box Hill. A mixture of stopping all stations services and express services (Camberwell - Box Hill only) operated between a 5- and 60-minute frequency, depending on the time of day.

Overcrowding was a problem due to increasing numbers of people returning to work and AFL football traffic on weekends. For the first time, express buses connected with trains from Ringwood (running direct to Parliament) and Blackburn (running express to Camberwell) to help ease considerable congestion at Box Hill and Camberwell. These additional services ran only during the peaks and, initially, were poorly advertised by Metro and the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA), causing confusion and considerable anger from commuters (which sadly was directed at frontline customer service staff). Operators providing vehicles included ABC Tours, Action Tours, Alston, Lively Bus, M Bus, Mee's, MelMax, Melbourne Premier Bus Lines, Pan Tour, SIT, Sunshine Tours, Transporter, United Coach Tours and Wangaratta Coach Lines. Some operators also had vehicle issues causing further headaches.

From 20:30 Friday 1 April until last service Sunday 3 April, buses replaced trains from Ringwood to Box Hill due to additional works. During this time, limited express buses ran all stations from Ringwood to Box Hill then express to Camberwell, with all stations services running from Camberwell to Box Hill. Due to several events, including AFL matches and the Flower and Garden Show in the CBD, there was again considerable overcrowding and late running on most replacement services. Unfortunately the Ringwood - Parliament expresses did not operate during this period, which if run, would have alleviated many of the problems detailed earlier. Again, advertising was poor and there was more confusion and anger directed at operational staff from passengers. Additional operators called in to assist included Transit Systems and Panorama.

Following this occupation, a significant amount of feedback was received by Metro and LXRA, in regards to the efficacy of the services provided, from operational staff, drivers and bus companies. As a result, there was to be a 'root and branch review' of the entire operation. Clearly one of the key points was the appalling lack of coordination between Metro and LXRA in terms of the information provided to the travelling public, but one highlight was the provision of the express services to Parliament - which, if recommendations are to be accepted, could be a permanent feature in future occupations on this very busy line. The next significant occupation will be in July 2022 for most of the month between Camberwell and Box Hill.

Pakenham - Berwick

A rare instance of 'rational thinking' by Metro and LXRA saw trains replaced only between Pakenham and Berwick from 20:30 Friday 8 April until last service Monday 11 April 2022 due to level crossing removal works at McGregors Road and Racecourse Road in Pakenham and associated station redevelopment works. The messaging from Metro and LXRA was very poor again with conflicting messaging from brochures, the Public Transport Victoria (PTV) website and the Metro mobile application in regards to what services were running. The printed brochures (and maps at each station) indicated that there were to be limited express services running from Pakenham to Cardinia Road then express to Berwick either (a) during peaks only or (b) right through the occupation in addition to the standard all stations service.

However, 'due to low passenger numbers' the limited express services were withdrawn, which caught passengers and operational staff by surprise. Despite this change, there was no attempt to update the brochure or replace the maps at each rail replacement stop. However (credit, where credit is due), the PTV website did indicate correctly that only all stations services would operate.

Naturally, the travelling public were furious and made their intentions quite clear during the weekend and Monday. Many passengers simply gave up and drove to Berwick station rather than use the 'all stations' service which operated every 7 to 10 minutes. Where possible, passengers for the CBD were directed to V/Line replacement coaches, if there was seating available.
STEVEN HABY

Bus Editor's Editorial: It is fair to say that Metro (and the State Government) has lost considerable goodwill (and likely patronage) in the last few weeks, particularly on the Pakenham to Dandenong and Ringwood to Flinders Street corridors. The publicity and messaging has been nothing short of a disgrace and it has been noted by the Bus Editor that key Metro project managers have been 'on site' observing proceedings from a distance, clearly concerned about what has occurred in recent weeks. The travelling public is growing increasingly tired of the

ongoing disruptions although they do 'accept and agree' with the benefits of new stations and eliminated level crossings but are frustrated by the lack of forward planning and lateral thinking, not to mention accurate and timely information. The last two occupations as reported above were not one of Metro's 'finest hours' and more needs to be done.

V/Line occupation update

Trains on the Gippsland corridor were replaced from Bairnsdale / Sale / Traralgon to Southern Cross from certain evenings in late March and in their entirety from late Friday 8 April until last service Monday 11 April 2022, due to LXRA works and Gippsland line upgrade works.

Patronage has slumped on the Gippsland line due to the ongoing works as people are increasingly tired of taking slow replacement coaches which have themselves been disrupted by works on the M1 Monash Freeway and Princes Highway, resulting in some trips adding 60 minutes just to get to Pakenham from Southern Cross.

There have been 'unofficial' discussions amongst V/Line staff that Nar Nar Goon will be converted to a temporary terminus for Gippsland line services during the Pakenham / Pakenham east so-called 'upgrade' - with the installation of crossovers and adjusted signalling required to account for trains terminating and shunting. **STEVEN HABY**

Yarra Trams: Grand Prix adjustments

After a hiatus of two years due to COVID, the Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix returned to Melbourne from Thursday 7 April through to Sunday 10 April 2022, with media reports indicating the total number of people attending over the four days was around 410,000 and could have been one of the largest on record anywhere in the world.

As in previous years, Yarra Trams provided a number of high frequency services to and from the track with subsequent changes to other routes in the area.

The following is a summary of the service changes:

Thursday 7 April and Friday 8 April

- Route **12** altered to run from St Kilda to Stop 12, St Vincent's Plaza via La Trobe Street
- Route **30** did not run
- Route **35** City Circle did not stop at Stop 119 Spencer Street and Stop D1 Stadium Precinct
- Route **96** replaced by buses between Stop 3 William Street and Stop 138 Luna Park from 05:30 to 20:30

Saturday 9 April and Sunday 10 April

- Route **12** altered to run from St Kilda to Stop 12, St Vincent's Plaza and ran express between Spencer Street and the City Road
- Route **109** ran express from Stop 1 Southern Cross Station and Stop 125A Southbank Tram Depot
- Route **30** did not run
- Route **35** City Circle operated as per Thursday and Friday altered schedule
- Route **86** terminated at Stop 1 Southern Cross Station (rather than continuing through to Docklands) between 05:30 and 08:30
- Route **96** replaced by buses from East Brunswick to Luna Park from 05:30 to 20:30

Swanston Street trams were altered as follows:

- Route **1** East Coburg to South Melbourne Beach ran in two sections with no trams between Stop 7 RMIT and Stop 17 Southbank Bvd
- Routes **3A** and **16** ran from East Malvern / Kew to Stop 138 Luna Park
- Route **5** ran between Malvern and Stop 38 Orrong Road with connections onwards with route 64 trams
- Route **6** ran in two sections as per route 1
- Route **64/67** terminated at St Kilda Junction
- Route **72** terminated at St Kilda Road

Grand Prix shuttle trams ran as follows over the four days from 05:30 to 20:30 with frequencies ranging from 6 to 15 minutes depending on the time of day:

- Route **S1** ran between Stop 122 Southern Cross Station and Middle Park express
- Route **S2** ran between Stop 122 Southern Cross Station and Albert Park loop siding express
- Route **S3** ran between Flinders Street station and St Kilda Junction
- Route **S4** ran between Melbourne Central Station and Stop 138 Luna Park or Windsor Station (corner Dandenong Road / Chapel Street).

To maximise the capacity of the services, articulated cars (B2, D2 and E1/E2 class cars) were rostered on from depots across Melbourne.

There were no additional Metro Trains services provided for the event. **STEVEN HABY, ROSS MORRISON, VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT**

Shane Warne state memorial

The state memorial service for cricketer Shane Warne was held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on the night of Wednesday 30 March.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) advised the the following additional **tram** services were scheduled to operate before the memorial service:

- Route 70: Additional services between Flinders / Elizabeth Streets and AAMI Park.
- Route 75: Additional services between Flinders / Elizabeth Streets and Jolimont station/MCG.

PTV advised that the following additional **trains** were scheduled to operate after the memorial service:

- From Jolimont station to Macleod (21:21, 21:40), Greensborough (21:26), Eltham (21:46), and Flinders Street (21:17, 21:29).
- From Richmond station to Camberwell (21:24, 21:38), Glen Waverley (21:24, 21:48), Caulfield (21:20, 21:31), Frankston (21:28, 21:48), and Sandringham (21:33, 21:53).

On the V/Line network, additional services were scheduled to operate from Southern Cross to Bendigo (21:57), Waurn Ponds (22:00, 22:45), Wendouree (22:08), South Geelong (22:20), and Bacchus Marsh (22:25). Due to planned nightly track maintenance, an additional coach was scheduled to depart 21:59 ex Southern Cross to Traralgon, and an additional coach to depart Southern Cross 22:20 for Seymour. **ROSS MORRISON, PUBLIC TRANSPORT VICTORIA**

ANZAC Day

Additional services were scheduled on most Yarra Trams routes for Monday, 25 April - ANZAC Day (excluded routes were 30, 35, 78 and 82). Shuttle services also operated every three minutes via Swanston Street and St Kilda Road until 06:00.

From 06:00, services did not operate along St Kilda Road between Melbourne Central Station and Domain Interchange stops.

Over 15 train additional services were also scheduled on the Metro Trains network, each arriving at Flinders Street by 05:30. **ROSS MORRISON, PUBLIC TRANSPORT VICTORIA**

Next Generation Trams

The state government announced on 21 April it had awarded a new tram construction contract to Bombardier, worth over \$1 billion. The contract includes the construction of 100 new G class trams, to replace existing high floor trams in the Yarra Trams fleet.

The self-titled Next Generation Tram contract will include a 65 per cent local content requirement. The government expects the new trams to start entering service from 2025.

The government intends to spend a total of \$1.85 billion, with a new maintenance and stabling facility to be constructed at Maidstone under a project led by the state's Department of Transport. **VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Gawler electrification

The new Labor state government announced the extension of the Gawler line closure until June, with replacement buses to be free-of-charge commencing from Monday 4 April. Adelaide Metro further advised that test trains were operating along the line from Tuesday 22 March until late April.

Meanwhile, train services across the rest of the network are running to the regular timetable, with some live cancellations possible to account for COVID impacts on staffing. **ADELAIDE METRO**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Prospector alteration

From 1 April until further notice, the Prospector train (East Perth-Kalgoorlie) is not stopping at Burracoppin due to station closure. Transwa advises that passengers can use Merredin or Carrabin stations instead. **TRANSWA**

ENDS

BUS & COACH NEWS

NATIONAL



Greyhound timetable update

At the time of writing the following Greyhound timetables have been updated (all dates are 2022):

- **GX580** Adelaide to Alice Springs - dated 3 April.
- **GX850** Alice Springs to Adelaide - dated 3 April.
- **GX404** Brisbane to Cairns - dated 14 March.
- **GX404/441** Brisbane to Hervey Bay - dated 14 March.
- **GX422** Brisbane to Sydney - dated 3 April (see below).
- **GX680** Broome to Darwin - dated 24 March.
- **GX454** Cairns to Brisbane - dated 14 March.
- **GX454/412** Cairns to Mackay - dated 14 March.
- **GX454/412/458** Cairns to Townsville - dated 24 March.
- **GX233** Canberra to Melbourne - dated 31 March.
- **GX322** Canberra to Sydney - dated 31 March (now reduced to one service daily) and updated 25 April.
- **GX860** Darwin to Broome - dated 24 March.
- **GX454/413** Hervey Bay to Brisbane - dated 5 April.
- **GX477/478/470/472** Longreach to Rockhampton - dated 24 March.
- **GX404/442** Mackay to Cairns - dated 18 March.
- **GX322** Melbourne to Canberra - dated 31 March.
- **GX322** Melbourne to Sydney - dated 31 March and updated 25 April.
- **GX471/476/475** Rockhampton to Longreach - dated 24 March.
- **GX244** Sydney to Brisbane - dated 3 April (see above).
- **GX233** Sydney to Canberra - dated 31 March and updated 25 April.
- **GX233** Sydney to Melbourne - dated 31 March and updated 25 April.
- **GX200** Sydney to Thredbo - dated 13 June.
- **GX203** Thredbo to Sydney - dated 13 June.
- **GX712/494/714/496/716** Toowoomba to Brisbane - dated 24 March.
- **GX404/442/408** Townsville to Cairns - dated 24 March.

Each timetable listed above and the full set are available from Greyhound's website at <https://www.greyhound.com.au/travel-information/printable-timetables> **Report by STEVEN HABY, source GREYHOUND**

GREYHOUND SERVICE TIMETABLE FOR: SYDNEY > BRISBANE

Effective 3 April 2022



Stop Code	Stop Name	GX244 Fri - Mon	Location
SYD	SYDNEY	9:00 PM	Central Station, Forecourt, Coach Bay 5 & 6, Haymarket NSW
NCL	NEWCASTLE	11:25 PM	Newcastle Interchange, Stand C, 854 Hunter St, Newcastle NSW
NAB	NABIAC MEAL BREAK	12:55 AM	Ampol Foodary, 3964 Wallanbah Rd, Nabiac NSW
		1:30 AM	
TRO	TAREE	1:55 AM	Bus Stop, United Petrol Station, 56 Victoria St, Taree NSW
PQQ	PORT MACQUARIE	3:00 AM	Coach Terminal, 109 Gordon St, Port Macquarie NSW
KPS	KEMPSEY	3:35 AM*	Service Centre, 511 Pacific Highway, South Kempsey NSW
NBH	NAMBUCCA HEADS	4:20 AM*	Visitor Info Centre, 55 Riverside Dr, Nambucca Heads NSW
NBM	NAMBUCCA HEADS MEAL BREAK ONLY	4:25 AM	Bp Roadhouse, 2 Corkwood Rd, Valla NSW. No Pickup/Setdown
		5:00 AM	
CFS	COFFS HARBOUR	5:40 AM	Coffs Harbour Coach Terminal, Pacific Hwy, Opp. Elizabeth St
WGG	WOOLGOOLGA	6:00 AM*	Bus Stop, Cnr Pullen St & Solitary Islands Way, Woolgoolga
ARR	ARRAWARRA (SPOT X)	6:10 AM*	Rest Point, Ararawarra Beach Rd, Woolgoolga NSW
GFN	GRAFTON	6:45 AM*	Grafton Railway Station, Cnr Crisp Ave & Through St, NSW
MCT	MACLEAN	7:20 AM*	Mclachlan Park Bus Stop, 186 River St, Maclean NSW
YAM	YAMBA	7:40 AM	Bus Stop, 34 Coldstream St, Yamba NSW
BNM	BALLINA MEAL BREAK ONLY	8:45 AM	Bp Roadhouse, 41 Bruxner Hwy, Ballina NSW. No Pickup/Setdown
		9:20 AM	
BNA	BALLINA	9:30 AM	Ballina Coach Stop, 80 Tamar St, Ballina NSW
BYR	BYRON BAY	10:10 AM	51-57 Butler St, Byron Bay Interchange, Bay C, Byron Bay NSW
BRH	BRUNSWICK HEADS	10:35 AM*	Coach Stop, 7 Park St, Brunswick Heads NSW
GCA	BILINGA (OPP GOLD COAST AIRPT)	11:15 AM	Bus Stop, Opp 105 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga QLD (Coolangatta)
SFR	SURFERS PARADISE - GOLD COAST	12:00 PM	10 Beach Rd, Coach Bays 8 & 9, Surfers Paradise QLD
SPT	SOUTHPORT - GOLD COAST	12:30 PM*	Southport Transit Centre, 34-36 Railway St, Southport QLD
BNE	BRISBANE	1:30 PM	Brisbane Coach Terminal, Parkland Cres, Brisbane QLD

Greyhound's GX244 Sydney to Brisbane timetable (source: Greyhound).

Skybus

Following the relaxation of COVID restrictions and the simultaneous increase in flight schedules, Skybus has increased services across their Australian operations as follows, although many services still remain in hiatus or cancelled indefinitely:

- **Melbourne (Southern Cross station) to Tullamarine** operates every 15 minutes from 04:30 to 09:45, then every 10 minutes until 17:45, then every 15 mins until midnight 7 days a week.
- **Melbourne (Southern Cross station) to Avalon** operates daily with services connecting with every flight each day. For example, SkyBus departures on Wednesday 13 April 2022 from Southern Cross were scheduled at 04:00, 06:50, 12:30, 13:55 and 17:35 (see below).
- **Hobart to Airport** operates daily with frequencies varied to meet incoming and departing flights. The service on Wednesday 13 April had departures from Hobart CBD (stop 1 Grand Chancellor) at 06:20, 07:10, 07:30, 08:30, 09:05, 09:35, 10:00, then every 30 minutes until 15:00, 15:35, 16:05, 16:35, 17:05, 17:45, 18:20, 19:00, and 19:30.
- **Brisbane to Brisbane Airport** has a very restricted timetable with the current service from the CBD at 06:58, 09:13, 11:03, 13:03, 15:03, 17:13, 19:08, 20:58, 22:58 and 00:58 each day.

The New Zealand operation has all but wound up with buses returned to Australia and placed in storage at Avalon. *Report by STEVEN HABY, source SKYBUS*

City to Avalon Airport

Wednesday 13 April

Southern Cross Station	Werribee	Avalon Airport
04:00	04:30	05:00
06:50	07:20	07:50
12:30	13:00	13:30
13:55	14:25	14:55
17:35	18:05	18:35

SkyBus timetable - Melbourne to Avalon Airport service for 13 April 2022 (source: SkyBus).

NEW SOUTH WALES



Industrial action

On Monday 11 April, 24-hour strike action taken by union members from Transit Systems, CDC and Transdev saw reductions in bus services in their respective regions.

Transport for NSW advertised in the days leading to the strike, that "some bus services in Sydney's Inner West, Northern, Southern, Western and Hills District areas will run to a reduced timetable. Some services may be cancelled". Some impacts would also be felt in the Newcastle, Hunter, Central Coast and Blue Mountains regions.

A general check of some areas and routes on the day suggested that Transit Systems services were more heavily impacted by the disruption than Transdev services.

In terms of quantity of cancellations, Bankstown and Hurstville Interchanges had a minority of services cancelled. Transdev's **M91** (Parramatta-Hurstville) had mostly single cancellations throughout the day.

On Transit Systems' **T80** (Liverpool-Parramatta), almost all interpeak services were cancelled. **420** (Mascot-Burwood) had clumps of services throughout the morning.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Transit Systems appeared to be more heavily hit by the strike, likely because their regions had a larger proportion of union members, with at least one region (six) having been government operated (as State Transit) until relatively recently.

On this day, Transport for NSW had arranged for key routes to have a special flat 30-minute frequency peak-only service provided by replacement bus/coach operators. Routes that benefited from this are believed to have included 320, 423, 440, 452, 565, 575, 596, 600, 607X, 610X, 804, 817, 907, 962, M90, M91, M92, and T80. These added replacement bus/coach services appeared to operate as a loop service to provide a service in both directions. This meant that in one direction, the replacement services started their one-way trips up to two hours later in the opposing direction.

Olympic Park: Major Event buses

Since the 2000 Olympic Games, Sydney has had a series of Major Event bus routes, which are activated only when major events are held at Sydney Olympic Park (SOP), located in the geographic heart of Sydney.

There are currently nine major event bus routes, each contracted to a private bus operator, as follows:

- 1A:** SOP - Warriewood via Chatswood & Dee Why (operated by Keolis Downer).
- 1B:** SOP - Warriewood via Macquarie Park & Mona Vale (CDC Forest).
- 2:** SOP - Glebe Point via Ryde (Busways).
- 4:** SOP - Maroubra Beach via Campsie & Mascot (Transdev John Holland).
- 5A:** SOP - Hills Showground via Castle Hill (Hillsbus).
- 5B:** SOP - Tallawong via Norwest (Hillsbus).
- 6:** SOP - Woronora via Bankstown (Transdev).
- 7:** SOP - Cronulla via Hurstville (Punchbowl Bus Co.).
- 8:** SOP - Dural via Carlingford & Pennant Hills (Hillsbus).

Only small modifications have been made to the routes since their introduction.

At the time of writing, one of the biggest events on SOP's annual calendar was being held in the precinct - the Sydney Royal Easter Show (RES). Administered by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS NSW), the Show attracts hundreds of thousands of people through its doors each year. RAS is also the operator of Sydney Showground, which includes Giants Stadium. With the COVID pandemic having hampered attendances in the past two years, signs thus far show that 2022 has been an incredibly strong year for attendance, with the show due to celebrate its 200-year anniversary in 2023.

The greater SOP precinct is administered by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

Sydney Olympic Park Major Event Buses



B Bus



Sydney Olympic Park Major Event Buses

1A Warriewood via Chatswood, Frenchs Forest & Dee Why

1B Warriewood via Macquarie Park, West Pymble and St Ives

2 Glebe Point via Ryde, Hunters Hill and Drummoyne

4 Maroubra Beach via Campsie, Rockdale Mascot and Eastgardens

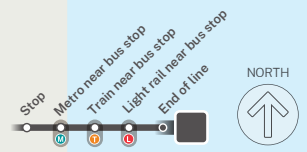
5A Hills Showground via Northmead, Baukhams Hills and Castle Hill

5B Tallawong via Northmead, Norwest and North-West Twy

6 Woronora via Bankstown, Bangor and Menai

7 Cronulla via Roselands, Hurstville and Miranda

8 Dural via Carlingford and Cherrybrook



Check timetables and trip planners for services and connections

Visit transportnsw.info

Across the Easter long weekend (15-18 April), tickets to the Show were sold out by mid-afternoon each day.

RES - Bus timetables

Each of these nine routes were activated for the two weeks of the Show, with buses operating inbound (arriving at SOP) daily between 08:30 and 17:30, and operating outbound (departing SOP) daily between 13:00 and 23:00. The two tables provided below show the scheduled frequencies (every x minutes) for each route during the Easter long weekend, showing variability by route and by timeslot, with differences in the provision of services.

Transport for NSW recently revised the network map for these routes, which is provided on the previous page.

PDF files of temporary timetables for selected routes were made available on the TransportNSW.Info website. On 16 April, published timetables were found for routes

1B, 2, 4, 5A, 5B, and 8. Notably, the route **1B** timetable differed by having no intermediate stops listed in the outbound direction. The remaining Major Event routes referred instead to the website's Trip Planner.

Trips appear to have a fair amount of fat built into them, judging by the performance of a 1B bus on Saturday 16 April (screenshot below). With a tabled 78-minute total trip time from origin (Pittwater Golf Centre) to destination (SOP), the bus actually only took 56 minutes to complete the trip, saving 28 per cent in total trip time. The bus gained 22 minutes between origin and destination - from 13 mins late to 9 mins early (note the tabled arrival time at SOP is 12:00). Generally not an unusual occurrence for a long cross-regional route, in the vein of the nearly extinct Metrobus routes.

Looking at the mobile timetable information, notably most, but not all, routes have pick up/set down restrictions for stops. All stops along routes **1A** (except for Chatswood station), **1B**, **2**, **4**, **6**, and **7** (except for Sylvania High School stop for the outbound direction only) are 'pick up'

Scheduled Major Event trips by route (every 'x' minutes)

SOP outbound (15-18 April long weekend)									
Timeslot	1A	1B	2	4	5A	5B	6	7	8
1300-1400	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
1400-1500	15	15	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
1500-1600	10	12	12	20	15	15	20	15	15
1600-1700	7/8	12	12	12	15	15	15	15	15
1700-1800	10	10	15	12	12 *	15	15	12	12
1800-1900	10	15	15	15	12	10	15	20	12
1900-2000	15	15	20	20	20	15	15	20	12
2000-2100	12	15	20	20	20	15	20	15	20
2100-2145	4	6	10	8/7	6	7/8	6	5	4
2145-2200									5
2200-2300	15	20	15	20	20 *	20 *	15	15	15
Daily services	62	49	41	41	44	44	43	46	51
/ = Alternating frequency.			- = Range of variable frequencies			* = Average frequency			

SOP inbound (15-18 April long weekend)										
Timeslot	1A	1B	2	4	5A	5B	6	7	8	
0830-0900	6	7/8	10	10	10	10	15	10	10	
0900-1000	6	7/8	10	10 ^S	7/8	8/7	8/7	8/7	7/8 ^S	
1000-1048	12	7/8	10	10 ^S	10	8/7	8/7	8/7	7/8 ^S	
1048-1100	6					8-9				
1100-1150	5	7/8	10	10 ^S	10 *	12	10	8/7	7/8 ^S	
1150-1200	5									10 ^S
1200-1230	10	15	20	10 ^S	20	15	15	20	10 ^S	
1230-1250										10
1250-1300	5	15	20	20	20	15	15	20	12	
1300-1320										2-10 (7 services)
1400-1430	7/8	15	20	20	20	15 *	15	20	15	
1430-1550		15				20				20
1550-1600	15	15	20	20	20	20	20	15	15	
1600-1630		20								
1630-1730	15	15	20	20	20	20	20	20 *	20	
Daily services	74	51	38	41	40	45	44	46	52	
/ = Alternating frequency.			- = Range of variable freq's			^S = Includes shortworkings		* = Average freq'y		

Stop	Arrival Time	Delay
Pittwater Golf Centre	10:55	13m late
Pittwater Rd opp Coronation St	10:57	12m late
Pittwater Rd at Rowan St	10:59	11m late
Pittwater Place Shopping Centre	11:01	12m late
Mona Vale Rd opp Mona Vale General Cemetery	11:05	12m late
Mona Vale Rd after Manor Rd	11:08	11m late
Booralie Rd Shops	11:14	11m late
Mona Vale Rd	11:21	9m late
Brigidine College	11:22	8m late
Corpus Christi Catholic Church	11:23	7m late
Mona Vale Rd	11:25	7m late
Mona Vale Rd opp Telegraph Rd	11:27	7m late
Gordon West Public School	11:30	6m late
Lane Cove Rd after Talavera Rd	11:33	6m late
Macquarie Park Station	11:34	6m late
Lane Cove Rd opp Kent Rd	11:37	5m late
Lane Cove Rd after Quarry Rd	11:38	4m late
Top Ryde City Shopping Centre	11:40	On time
Church St at Riverside Ave	11:42	On time
Concord Rd after Llewellyn St	11:44	On time
Rhodes Station	11:45	1m early
Sydney Olympic Park	11:51	8m early

Late running on-time running performance of a route 1B bus on Saturday 16 April.

only inbound and 'set down' only outbound. The remaining routes that are operated by Hillsbus (5A, 5B and 8) appear to have no such restrictions - however the Transport published PDF timetables for routes 5A, 5B and 8 do have the pick up/set down restrictions listed with the use of abbreviations 'D' and 'U'. There was no published PDF timetable available for Keolis Downer's route 1A.

The published timetables for routes 1B, 2 and 4 do use different abbreviations to signify the restrictions (**P** for pick up only, and **D** for drop off only). It is unclear why Transport uses different symbols for the same meaning.

Shortworkings

Route 4 had inbound shortworkings operating from Brighton RSL Club stop to SOP, which doubled the operating frequency in that section between 09:10 and 12:30 (SOP arrival times) to a bus every 10 minutes.

Route 8 (timetable dated 11-17 April) also had shortworkings inbound ex Dural (New Line Road before James Henty Drive stop) with every second trip (09:07 to 12:50 arriving at SOP), cutting the average frequency in that section to every 7.5 mins pre-midday, and every 10 mins post-midday.

Local route impacts

A Transport notification dated from Thursday 14 April advised of route 525 (Parramatta-Strathfield) and N81 (Parramatta-Town Hall) buses skipping two stops at Olympic Park as they were "diverting away from Dawn Fraser Avenue via local roads". As a late night train replacement bus stopping in lieu of railway stations, it is unclear if the N81 service was therefore totally skipping Olympic Park station, or if an alternative stop was in use for those passengers (no alternative stop was advertised in the notification). The NightRide route only operates late Thursday to Saturday nights.

(It has subsequently been noted that this disruption occurred again on Thursday 21 April, days after after the Show had concluded, so the reason behind the disruption is not clear.)

Last day

The last day of the Show, Tuesday 19 April, had a reduced schedule of services (compared to the long weekend), with some trips having extended journey times to take into account peak-hour traffic, although it forms part of the second week of NSW school holidays.

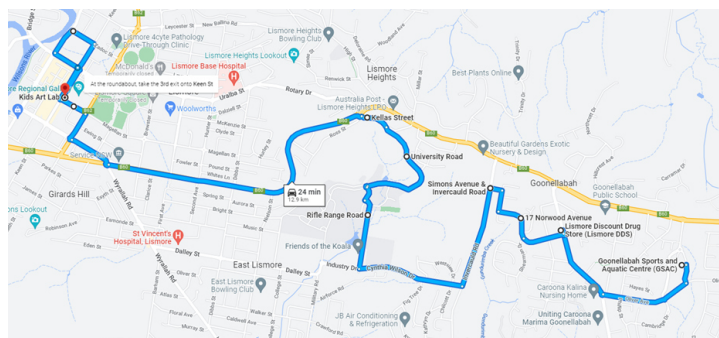
TRANSPORT FOR NSW, RAS NSW

Flood recovery services

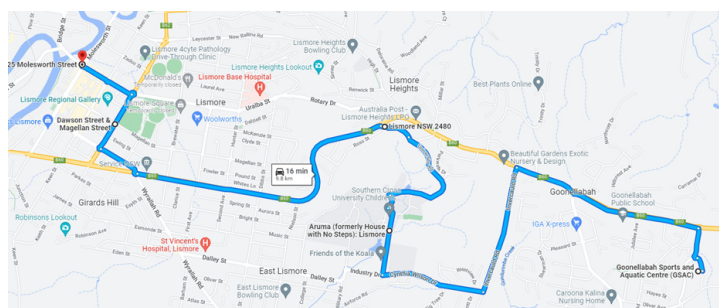
A number of "flood recovery shuttle" bus services were organised to operate from mid-March in Northern New South Wales, with towns including Ballina, Casino and Lismore, linking locals to flood recovery and distribution centres. The routes include:

- **610** (Chinderah-Murwillumbah): Effective 17 March, two trips per direction daily, operated by Gosel's Bus Service.
- **691** (Coraki-Casino): Effective 14 March, three trips per direction on weekdays, operated by Casino Bus Service.
- **692** (Woodburn-Broadwater-Evans Head): Eff. 14 March, two trips per direction on weekdays, operated by Northern Rivers Buslines.

- **698** (Upper Wilsons Creek to Mullumbimby): Three trips per direction on weekdays, operated by Mullumbimby Bus Service. This timetable has no intermediate stops listed in the timetable.
- **699** (Goonellabah-Lismore): Effective 11 March, nine trips in both directions, operating once per hour daily, operated by Northern Rivers Buslines.



Map of the 699 route ex Lismore.



Map of the 699 route ex Goonellabah.

- **701** (Lake Ainsworth-Ballina): Eff. 21 March, five trips ex Ballina, four ex Lake Ainsworth operating two-hourly daily, operated by Blanch's Bus Co.
- **702** (Alstonville-Ballina): Effective 21 March, five trips ex Ballina, four ex Alstonville daily, operated by Alstonville Bus Service.
- **703** (Wardell-Ballina): Effective 21 March, four trips per direction daily two-hourly, operated by Blanch's Bus Company.

Temporary timetables for these routes were made available on the Transport website. The fare-free routes mostly required just the one bus to operate the trips across the day. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW, LISMORE CITY COUNCIL**

Route 543 withdrawn

Inner North-west Sydney bus route 543, which was operated by Busways in its final few months of operation, has been withdrawn. The route, which ran several services per day between West Ryde and Eastwood via Denistone West in the morning and afternoon peaks, largely for the benefit of Marsden High School students, finished up at the end of Term One of the school year, which would have been on Friday, 8 April.

Marsden High School has now relocated to Meadowbank, next to the TAFE, commencing with Term Two. **BUS AUSTRALIA FORUM**

VICTORIA



Craigieburn area timetable changes

Route 511 Donnybrook Station to Mandalay via Olivine (effective Monday 11 April 2022)

511 has had a minor route change due to a new intersection on Donnybrook Road, with the route entering Olivine Boulevard via a left turn from Donnybrook Road, travel via Hayes Hill Boulevard and Patterson Drive, then continue on Donnybrook Road via a right-hand turn from Patterson Drive. Two minutes added to the total journey time.

Route 525 Donnybrook Station to Craigieburn Station via Mickleham (effective Sunday 24 April 2022)

525 has been realigned to improve access to schools and community facilities in Mickleham. The route now travels via Marathon Boulevard, Highlander Drive, Mount Ridley Road, Mickleham Road, Poppy Street, Brossard Road, Ellscott Boulevard, Errol Boulevard, Blackmore Road, St Georges Boulevard, Harfield Avenue, Alexo Road and the Woods Boulevard.

As a result, it no longer serves from Aitken Boulevard, Grand Boulevard, Daybreak Vista, Trillum Boulevard, Balmain Road, a section of Donnybrook Road and a section of Alexo Road. Passengers in Craigieburn can catch Route 541 to access Aitken Boulevard or Route 529 to access Grand Boulevard. In Mickleham, passengers will still be within close walking distance of 525.

Two trips have been added on Sunday mornings. The service frequency and span of hours remain unchanged on weekdays and Saturdays. School trips to and from Mt Ridley College will continue to operate on school days.

Route 528 Craigieburn Station – Craigieburn Central SC (effective Sunday 24 April 2022)

528 has been extended along Elevation Boulevard, providing additional coverage to west Craigieburn and better access to Elevation Secondary College and shops.

The morning peak frequency and weekday interpeak frequency calls for buses every 20 minutes. The frequency of the service has increased to every 20 minutes on weekdays and every 40 minutes on weekends to better reflect demand. Sunday morning services now start earlier to allow for a 09:00 arrival at Flinders Street Station.

Passengers should also experience better coordination with trains at Craigieburn Station from trip adjustments.

Route 529 Craigieburn Station - Craigieburn North via Craigieburn SC (effective Sunday 24 April 2022)

529 has been extended west along Brookfield Boulevard and Highlander Drive to Craigieburn Central Shopping Centre, connecting Craigieburn West residents to shops, medical services, employment and trains.

The weekday service frequency has increased to every 15 minutes during morning & afternoon peak and every 20 minutes off-peak. Sunday morning services start earlier to allow for an 08:20 arrival at Flinders Street Station.

The route maintains access to Highlands Shopping Centre, Mt Ridley College and Craigieburn Station.

Route 533 Craigieburn - Craigieburn North via Hanson Road (effective Sunday 24 April 2022)

533 has been revised to improve connections with Route 529, with minor changes to morning and afternoon peak service frequency.

The off-peak service frequency has increased to a bus every 20 minutes on weekdays. Sunday morning services start earlier to allow for an 08:20 arrival at Flinders Street Station.

Route 537 Craigieburn Station - Craigieburn West via Craigieburn Central SC (effective Sunday 24 April 2022)

537 has been shortened to end at Craigieburn Central Shopping Centre (SC), with Route 528 servicing the removed section of 537. The frequency of the weekday service has increased to every 20 minutes, while it is unchanged on weekends.

The Sunday morning span will be increased to allow for an 08:20 arrival at Flinders Street Station.

There have also been minor timetable changes for the following routes (effective Sunday 24 April):

- **530** (Campbellfield Plaza – Coburg)
- **531** (Upfield Station – North Coburg)
- **532** (Craigieburn Station – Broadmeadows Station)
- **544** (Craigieburn Station – Roxburgh Park Station)

Report by STEVEN HABY, source PUBLIC TRANSPORT VICTORIA

CRUBS tender outcomes

In late 2021, Victoria's Department of Transport issued tenders for the provision of Country Regional Urban Bus Services (CRUBS) across the state.

The successful operators for these tenders will commence their service contracts from 1 July 2022. The following changes are known at this stage:

- Donric Group - **Gisborne town bus** service (routes 473/474) including provision of a hybrid electric bus (formerly operated by Sunshine Tours).
- Donric Group – **Melbourne to Mildura coach** service (formerly operated by BusBiz).
- Donric Group – **Melbourne – Wendouree night coach** service.
- Donric Group / Organ's Coaches – **Wendouree to Melbourne coach** service (16:00 up Wendouree weekdays only).
- Donric Group – **Kyneton town bus** service (formerly operated by Dyson's).
- Donric Group – **Boort to Bendigo**.
- Donric Group – **Swan Hill to Bendigo and Ararat to Boort**.
- Donric Group – **Woodend to Daylesford** (formerly operated by Little's from Ballarat & Daylesford for many years).
- Donric Group – **Bendigo to Moama** (formerly operated by Dyson's).
- Donric Group – **Melbourne to Bendigo night coach**.
- South Coast Buslines – **Inverloch – Wonthaggi – Dandenong** (formerly operated by Westernport Roadlines).
- South Coast Buslines – **Yarram to Melbourne** (formerly operated by Westernport Roadlines).

Further details will be available in future issues of *Table Talk*. *Report by STEVEN HABY*

Yarra Valley bus review

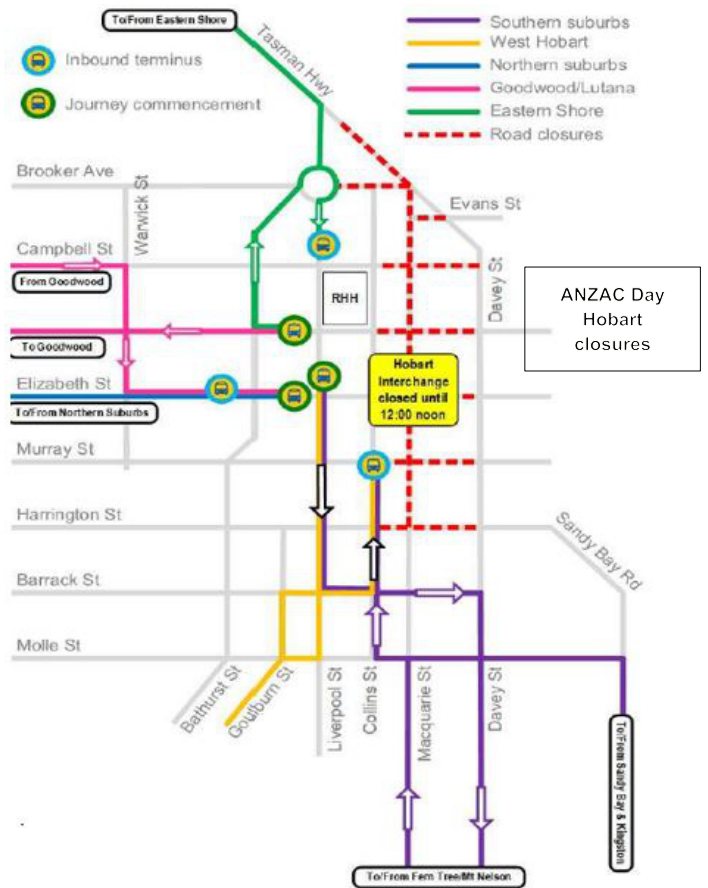
A review of the Yarra Valley bus network is currently underway, with consultation with key stakeholders and the local community. If adopted, a new network will be introduced later in 2022.

The four routes under review are:

- **684** Melbourne to Eildon via Healesville
- **685** Lilydale to Healesville
- **686** Healesville to Badger Creek
- **687** Healesville to Chum Creek.

The intention is to drastically simplify the route network down to two basic routes with increased services, including possibly to Eildon, however at the expense of the Chum Creek route and the portion of the Eildon run from Southern Cross to Chirside Park. It is proposed for the Chum Creek route to be curtailed due to low patronage, with Eildon services instead starting/terminating at Chirside Park rather than Southern Cross station.

The Yarra Valley bus network is operated by McKenzie's Tourist Services. *Report by STEVEN HABY, source PUBLIC TRANSPORT VICTORIA*



TASMANIA



Kinetic acquires Merseylink

Kinetic continues its acquisition spree with the purchase of Merseylink from Grant and Jan Bingley, adding 90 buses and 120 employees from across four depots. Kinetic said that 51 government-contracted bus services will add necessary scale to its pre-existing Tasmanian bus business, Tasmanian Redline, which also includes the recently purchased Sainty's operation.

Merseylink bus routes include public services 170-6, 178, 180, 182-4, 708 and school routes 6, 8, 9, 16-18, 22, 24-7, 29, 32, 34, 37, 40, 49, 52, 53, 55, 57-60, 62-66, 70, 76, 81, 90, 107-13, 119-121, 125-7, 187-189 as well as five unnumbered north-west routes around Burnie and Devonport. **KINETIC**



ANZAC Day: Hobart and Claremont

On 25 April, some diversions were required for timetabled bus services in Hobart until around midday due to ANZAC Day services. Meanwhile, in Claremont, around 08:30-09:00, services were also diverting.

Maps of both are provided, right. **METRO TASMANIA**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Reduced timetable

Adelaide bus services in some regions continue to operate to a reduced timetable due to COVID impacts on staffing, although the list of cancellations has reduced from the January highs.

In the Adelaide Hills, the following services are listed as temporarily removed from the weekday timetable (from 30 March):

- **861:** 07:15 & 17:00 ex Currie Street, 07:40 ex Glen Osmond Road.
- **840X:** 07:10 ex Dutton Road Park & Ride.
- **T840:** 06:23, 07:52, 09:06, 10:08, 11:08, 12:08, 13:06, 14:06, & 15:56 ex Dutton Rd Park & Ride, and 10:14, 11:14, 12:14, 13:14, 14:14, 15:10, & 17:55 ex Currie St.
- **863F:** 07:55 ex Mt Barker Road.
- **T863:** 07:05, 07:25 & 07:45 ex Mt Barker Rd, and 16:52, 17:08 & 17:40 ex Currie St.

In the Outer South, the following services are listed as temporarily removed from the weekday timetable (from 31 March):

- **681:** 09:02 & 10:02 ex Flinders University.
- **682:** 09:12 ex Hallett Cove Beach station, and 09:36 ex Southbank Boulevard.
- **719:** 09:18 ex King William Street.
- **720:** 09:01 & 17:16 ex King William St, and 16:48 ex Old Reynella Interchange (IC).
- **721X:** 07:10 ex Old Reynella IC.
- **721F:** 16:48 ex Noarlunga Centre IC.
- **T721:** 15:24 & 15:44 ex King William St.
- **722F:** 07:02 ex King William St, and 13:54 ex Noarlunga Centre IC.
- **T722:** 07:10 ex Seaford Centre, and 16:53 & 18:10 ex King William St.
- **723F:** 06:41 & 06:55 ex Noarlunga Centre IC, and 07:26 ex Colonnades IC.
- **723X:** 17:15 ex King William St.
- **725:** 18:46 ex Old Reynella IC.
- **734:** 13:59 ex Colonnades IC.
- **741A:** 06:02 ex Gulf Parade.
- **745:** 15:35 ex Colonnades IC.
- **750R:** 06:06 ex Perth Street.
- **751:** 08:59 ex Noarlunga Hospital.

In the other remaining Adelaide bus regions, the following routes each have one or more services temporarily removed from the regular timetable until further notice (dated 16 February): 106, 110, 117, 118, 141, 142, 150, 155, 157X, 163, 167, 167C, 170, 171, 172, 174, 176, 178, 190, 200, 200B, 200C, 206, 208, 209F, 222, 222R, 224, 224X, 225, 225F, 225M, 228X, 229F, 230, 232R, 235, 239, 245, 248F, 251, 253X, 254X, 262, 263, 265, 271, 273, 281, 286, 288, 288S, 300, 300G, 300U, 400, 440, 441, 501-3, 502X, 506, 506H, 507, 540-2, 541X, 542X, 543X, 544X, 545, 545X, 546, 548, 556, 557, 600B, 645, 646, 966, C1X, C2X, G10, G10A, G10C, G20, G20F, G21F, G21X, G22X, G30F, H20, H21, H22, H22C, H22L, H24, H30, H30C, H32, H33, H33C, J1, J1A, J2, M44, W91, and X30. **ADELAIDE METRO**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Minor revisions

An updated timetable was issued for route **548**, effective from Sunday 20 March. The 19:45 trip ex Fremantle now departs five minutes later to improve the connection from the train.

Since Sunday 3 April, Mandurah Line Train Replacement Route **909** operates via Fiona Stanley Hospital in both directions. Transperth advises that the change is a result of positive passenger feedback about this way of working after the recent Mandurah Line shutdown.

From Sunday 10 April, routes **228** and **229** have some trip time changes in advance of works near Maddington station. Once those works do commence, services are to undergo a temporary route change. Transperth also advises "Please note that if you pick up a printed timetable the map will be of the new route, this won't come into effect until the works begin".

Transperth later advised that from Sunday 24 April, routes **204**, **205**, **228**, **229** and **279** have temporary route changes for a number of months, with the latter three routes undergoing trip time changes as part of the diversion, for Water Corporation works, as part of the Pipes For Perth project.

From Tuesday 26 April, the **484 AM** school trip underwent time changes to address reliability issues, the **441 AM** school trip had a deviation via Sacred Heart College added, while the **34 PM** trip had time changes with the School Special **786** services simultaneously withdrawn "due to low patronage"

From Sunday 8 May, routes **219**, **544**, **565** and **567** had trip time changes to facilitate Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal works and therefore "more accurately reflect running times". **TRANSPERTH**

NEW ZEALAND



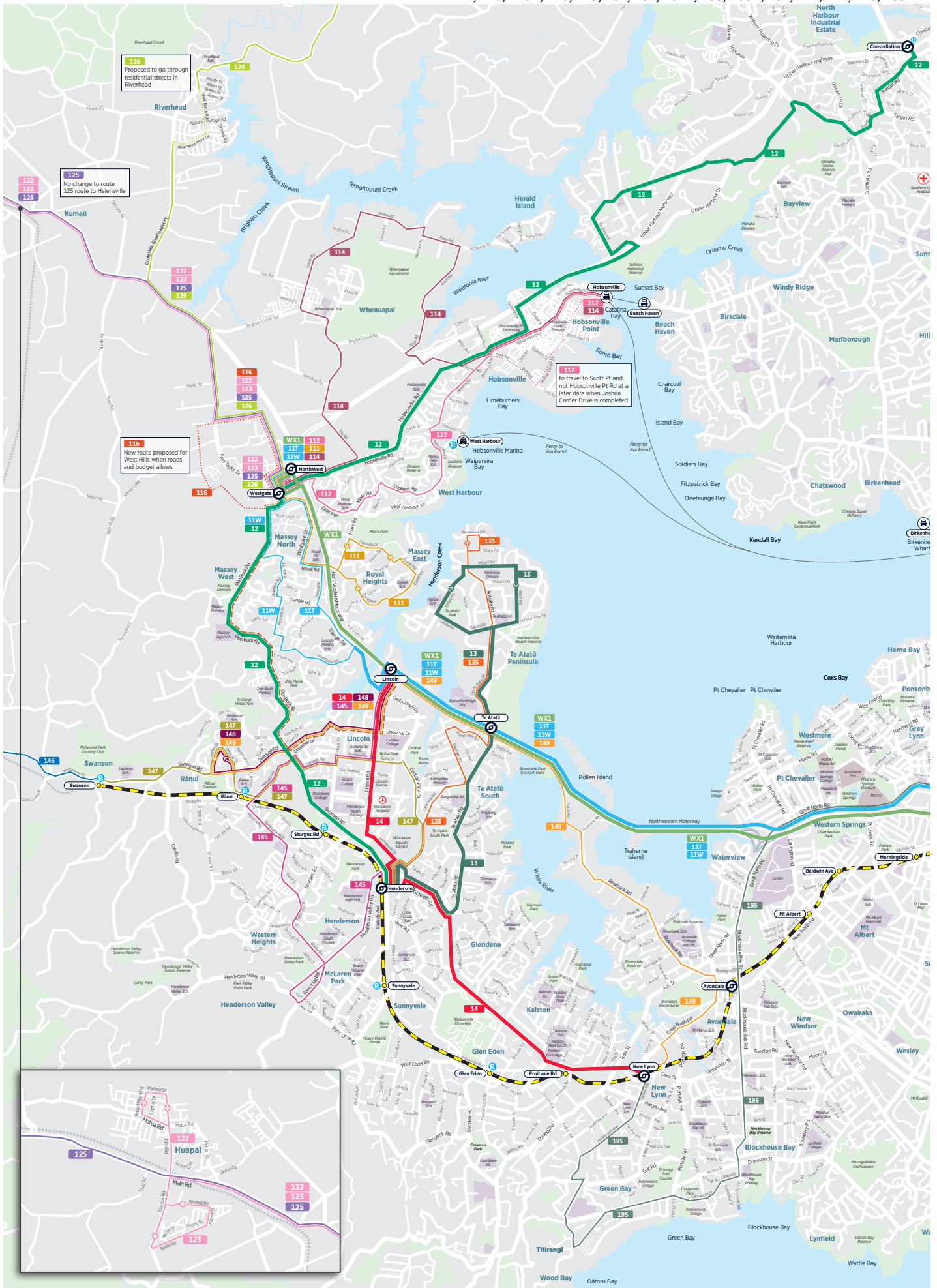
Northwest Auckland Bus Network Review

In April, Auckland Transport released details for a proposed new northwest Auckland bus network, with the public response accepted until May 1. The proposal entails the following changes:

- A new **WX1 City Centre to Westgate Express** via Northwestern Motorway provides a ten-minute day service daily.
- At Te Atatu Interchange, feeder route **13 Henderson-Te Atatu Peninsula**, renumbered from 131, replaces routes 132 & 132X (City Centre-Te Atatu Peninsula) and 133 & 133X (City Centre-Henderson), **135 Henderson-Te Atatu Peninsula via Edmonton Rd** replaces 134 City Centre-Henderson via Edmonton Rd, while route 195 (City Centre-New Lynn) serves Williamson Av between Karangahape Rd and Grey Lynn shops in lieu of the discontinued 134.

North-west Auckland Proposed bus services

Map doesn't show routes that are unaffected by these changes. Changes are only being made to routes 14T, 14W, 110, 111, 112, 114, 120, 122, 125, 125X, 126, 129, 131, 132, 132X, 133, 133X, 134, 141, 142, 146, 195.



- At Lincoln Road Interchange, **11T City Centre-Westgate via Triangle Rd** replaces 110 City Centre-Westgate and 14T Lincoln Rd to Westgate, **11W City Centre-Westgate via Waimumu Rd** replaces 14W Lincoln to Westgate, **14 Lincoln Rd-Henderson** replaces 14T & 14W Lincoln Rd to Henderson, **145 Lincoln Rd-Henderson** via Western Heights replaces 141 & 142 Western Heights loop services, **149 Ranui-New Lynn** replaces 146 Ranui to Lincoln Rd and 138 Te Atatu to New Lynn via Rosebank Rd, with **148 Ranui-Lincoln Rd** operates evenings and on weekends when 149 does not operate. Nearby, new **147 Swanson-Henderson** operates via Larnoch Rd in lieu of 146 via Universal Drive, **146 Swanson-Waitakere Village** would continue only as a remnant of 146 Waitakere Village-Henderson, **143 Henderson-Ranui via Sturges Rd** is unchanged, while **12 Henderson-Constellation Stn** via Don Buck Drive is renumbered from 120. 129 City Centre-Westgate via Don Buck Drive is discontinued.
- At Westgate Interchange, 125X City Centre-Helensville is discontinued, with **111 Westgate-Royal Heights**, **112 & 114 Westgate-Hobsonville Point**, new **116 Westgate- West Hills**, **122 Westgate-Huapai**, new **123 Westgate-Huapai South**, **125 Westgate-Helensville** and **126 Westgate-Albany Stn** now serving NorthWest shopping centre. **128 Helensville-Hibiscus Coast Interchange** continues unchanged.

In the renumbering of 110 to 11T, 120 to 12 and 131 to 13, 11T & 11W combined, 12 and 13 are identified as two-digit frequent services.

A map of this revised network is provided on page 13.
Report by **HILAIRE FRASER**

ENDS

FERRY NEWS

QUEENSLAND



Brisbane ferry update

Translink announced the resumption of the Bulimba to Teneriffe River Ferry from Monday 4 April, and the introduction of a temporary “West End to Guyatt Park Cross River Ferry” route beginning Monday 11 April.

Meanwhile, temporary bus services have also been timetabled to operate in lieu of suspended ferry services, with route **233** (Apollo Road-Brisbane City) operating in the peak direction only, with buses every 15 mins (06:30-08:00 and 16:00-17:30).

A maxi-taxi loop service, called PPT (Personalised Public Transport), operates between North Shore Hamilton, Bretts Wharf and Teneriffe wharves, with a “hail and ride” service operating on weekends, and weekday evenings as follows:

- Mon-Thu: 17:00-22:00 – Hourly
- Fri: 17:00-23:00 – Every 20 minutes.
- Weekends: 06:00-14:00 – Hourly, 15:00-23:00 Sat/22:00 Sun - Every 20 mins.

TRANSLINK

NEW SOUTH WALES



Birchgrove closedown

Transdev Sydney Ferries' Birchgrove wharf was closed for most of April to enable Western Harbour Tunnel project works. As a result, from Monday 11 April, F8 Cockatoo Island ferries were skipping this stop, with Transport advising that the nearest alternatives were Balmain wharf for a ferry service, or bus route 441 for a local service into the city. The wharf was expected to reopen around three weeks later. **TRANSPORT FOR NSW**

ENDS

AIR NEWS

DOMESTIC



Qantas school holiday and Easter delays

Qantas flights at Sydney Airport and Melbourne's Tullamarine airport were subject to significant delays during the first weekend of the April school holidays and in the week leading up to the Easter long weekend (15-18 April), due to staff shortages at security gates, baggage handling and ground support. Furthermore, Qantas cancelled numerous flights due to pilot shortages and in fact sent an 'all staff' email requesting any pilots not rostered or on leave to make themselves available for several international and domestic flights.

These issues were covered extensively in the media across the country and the situation was not helped by the Qantas chief executive officer, Alan Joyce, commenting that 'passengers were not match fit' - a reference to delays at the security gates. Naturally, this comment drew widespread criticism across the community. Further analysis of the situation by several aviation and business writers speculated that both Qantas and (in particular) Sydney Airport had made cuts during the COVID pandemic that were too deep in terms of staffing (including outsourcing) and now needed to scramble to find suitable staff to cover the gaps. It was reported furthermore that Qantas and other airlines had one of their busiest weekends in decades in terms of passengers wishing to fly. To make matters worse, on Tuesday, media reports advised intending passengers for

domestic flights to arrive at least two hours before their flight departure.

In regards to flight cancellations, a check on the Qantas website indicated the following flights did not operate on Wednesday 13 April 2022 to/from Sydney (by way of example):

Sydney - Melbourne (departure/arrival)

QF409 - 0700/0835
 QF419 - 0800/0935
 QF425 - 0915/1050
 QF431 - 1015/1150
 QF473 - 1715/1850
 QF479 - 1800/1935
 QF487 - 1930/2105

Melbourne - Sydney (departure/arrival)

QF406 - 0630/0755
 QF412 - 0715/0840
 QF460 - 1445/1610
 QF468 - 1645/1810

Sydney - Brisbane (departure/arrival)

QF7444 - 0050/0215
 QF7369 - 0145/0315

Brisbane - Sydney (departure/arrival)

QF7368 - 2330/0100

Adelaide - Sydney (departure/arrival)

QF7481 - 2050/2320

Sydney - Canberra (departure/arrival)

QF1433 - 1005/1100

Canberra - Sydney (departure/arrival)

QF1436 - 1140/1235

Report by STEVEN HABY

INTERNATIONAL



Qantas: Additional AU-US flights

Qantas responded to strong demand for flights to Los Angeles, United States, with the doubling of scheduled flights from Melbourne to eight per week from the end of March. Qantas has also announced that it will operate four weekly return flights Melbourne-Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) from 2 December. Partner American Airlines provides flights to many dozens of destinations out of DFW. SAMCHUI.COM

World's longest flight

Cathay Pacific was reported to be planning to revise its New York-Hong Kong flight path in light of the Russian airspace issues stemming from the war in Ukraine.

Until now, the longest flight in the world (by distance) has been Singapore Airlines' Singapore-New York (JFK) service.

The revised flight path would be over 16,600 kilometres in distance from origin to destination, operating around the south-western edge of Russia to fly over the United Kingdom.

Sourced from Bloomberg research, below is a list of the top 12 on the list, including Cathay's latest route plan for New York-Hong Kong:

Route	Airline	Distance (km)	Duration
New York JFK-Hong Kong (planned)	Cathay Pacific	16,618	16-17 hours
Singapore-New York JFK	Singapore Airlines	15,349	17hrs 31m
Singapore-Newark	Singapore Airlines	15,345	17hrs 6m
Doha-Auckland (suspended)	Qatar Airways	14,535	17hrs 25m
Melbourne-Dallas (planned)	Qantas	14,472	16hrs 21m
Auckland-New York JFK (planned)	Air New Zealand	14,207	16hrs 3m
Dubai-Auckland (suspended)	Emirates	14,200	16hrs 39m
Singapore-Los Angeles	Singapore Airlines	14,114	17hrs 9m
Bangalore-San Francisco	Air India	14,004	15hrs 33m
Darwin-London Heathrow	Qantas	13,873	17hrs 12m
Houston-Sydney (suspended)	United Airlines	13,834	17hrs 17m
Sydney-Dallas	Qantas	13,804	14hrs 30m

Sources: FlightRadar24, Cirium
 Note: Durations are average flight times

SAMCHUI.COM

Russia/Ukraine saga

The European Commission announced in April it was banning 21 Russian airlines over safety concerns stemming from Russia's forced re-registration of foreign-owned aircraft which it is holding hostage under authorisation from President Vladimir Putin. The European Commission insists the move is solely based on technical and safety grounds, with the Russian airlines issuing local airworthiness certificates in breach of international safety standards, rather than as a sanction against Russia over the war in Ukraine.

The European Union apparently now has a list of 117 airlines blacklisted from EU airspace over safety concerns. SAMCHUI.COM

ENDS

TIMETABLE ALERT

In south-east Queensland, the following Gold Coast bus timetables, available on Translink's website (translink.com.au), previously effective from 9 August 2021, have now been re-issued in Translink's new blue and pink colours:-

- 700, 777 Broadbeach South-Tweed Heads
- 704 Sea World-Helensvale
- 705 Sea World-Broadbeach South
- 710 Griffith Uni-Helensvale
- 711 712 713 719 Southport-Paradise Pt
- 711 718 Southport-Sanctuary Cove
- 714 715 716 717 727 Southport-Helensvale
- 721 722 Coomera-Ormeau
- 726 Coomera-Coomera Waters
- 727 Coomera-Helensvale
- 728 729 Beenleigh-Ormeau
- 731 747 Southport-Robina
- 735 Southport-Nerang
- 736 743 744 Nerang-Broadbeach South
- 737 738 741 742 Southport-Broadbeach South
- 739 Griffith Uni-Nerang
- 740 Surfers Paradise-Nerang
- 745 Nerang-Broadbeach South
- 746 749 Nerang-Nerang West
- 748 Robina-Nerang
- 750 Broadbeach South-Robina
- 751 752 Broadbeach South-Robina
- 753 754 757 Broadbeach South-Burleigh Heads
- 755 758 Robin-Merrimac
- 756 Broadbeach South-West Burleigh
- 759 Robina-Reddy Creek

An article on the rebrand is available in the Train & Tram News section of this issue of *Table Talk*. Report by **HILAIRE FRASER**

Above: Revised Translink timetable format with pink cover and logo.

Above: Previous Translink timetable format, including green cover and old logo (both source Translink).

About Table Talk

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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: Steven Haby, David Hennell, Geoff Mann, Richard May, Katie Moss, Len Regan, Richard Talbot.

Proofreaders: Agnes Boskovitz, David Cranney and Geoff Hassall.

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