

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Committee:	Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Inquiry:	2025/26 Budget Estimates
Hearing date:	5 June 2025
Witness:	Jeroen Weimar
Committee Member:	Nick McGowan
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Question:


Can someone please check that the disability toilet that is at Ringwood station is compliant? It strikes me that it is noncompliant from the entry point that is the door to the toilet itself. I would like to think it is on some sort of schedule for upgrade, but it is currently, as I understand it, noncompliant, so for people with a disability who use a wheelchair – and I have got a lot of constituents, young children included – it is very difficult for them to use.

Answer:

I thank the Member for North-Eastern Metropolitan for his question and advocacy, particularly on behalf of children with accessibility need.

Ringwood Station has accessible toilet on all platforms and two further accessible toilets within the station precinct on the concourse level, all of which have been assessed by the Department of Transport and Planning as compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1995*.

I thank the Member again for his question



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Minister for Public and Active Transport

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Question:

The tactile ground service indicators on Blackburn station have worn off significantly. It would be good for me to know whether they are part of this budget and whether they will be fixed as soon as possible, obviously for people who are low or no vision.

Answer:

Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) is responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the metropolitan rail network and associated infrastructure.

MTM has inspected the Blackburn station platforms and advised the tactile ground service indicators (TGSIs) on Platforms 1 and 2 are in a reasonable condition for most of the platform length.

MTM have plans to replace a 3 to 5 meter strip of TGSIs directly adjacent to the platform entrance on Platform 3. The work is scheduled in Q2 of 2026, during the next available safe occupation. The Department of Transport and Planning will work with MTM to consider potential earlier occupation dates to expedite the installation.



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Question:

There is a bus that services Norwood Secondary College, bus 2641. It is routinely overcrowded. I have written to the education minister before. I have written to your predecessors before. The principals themselves stand as the children get on this bus. There are not enough seats. They want an elongated bus – a longer bus, that is, rather than a shorter bus. We have repeatedly asked for this. The last response from the government was that children can use alternate buses 364 or 380. The reality is this bus has a certain route that it follows and of course the children need to use that route to get home. So it is a serious safety concern. The principals themselves stand there and count the children, and time and again they tell me it is over the prescribed number of children. Yet I cannot get traction with the government to change it to a longer concertina bus versus the shorter bus. I do not know what I need to do to get it changed before we have a serious accident for Norwood Secondary College.

Answer:

When considering options for increasing capacity on bus services at school times, the Department of Transport and Planning can only provide additional capacity for students attending their zoned school and who live more than 3 kilometres from the school.

School bus route 2641 only has a small number of stops within the Norwood Secondary College enrolment zone, which are all within 3 kilometres of the school. Most of the route operates within the neighbouring enrolment zone for Melba Secondary College.

The operator of school bus route 2641 manages the type of vehicle used to service the route and has advised that while the bus often gets close to capacity, it has not reached or exceeded capacity.

There are other alternative bus service options available to students that overlap various parts of school bus route 2641. Route 668 stops at Norwood Secondary College on Mullum Mullum Road at 3:05pm and 3:24pm. Route 364 stops near Norwood Secondary College on Wonga Road at 3:15pm.


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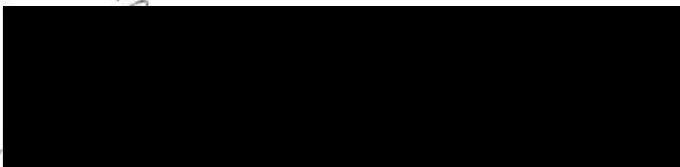
Question:

On another matter, Elizabeth Street in North Richmond has been named by the department as a priority strategic cycling corridor, but we have just seen Yarra City Council vote to narrow the bike lanes and reinstate parking on the north side of the street, putting cyclists at risk, effectively. Can I ask: does the government intend to block Yarra's decision on this matter?

Answer:

Elizabeth Street is a local road under the management of the City of Yarra.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has advised that they do not support the downgrading of important cycling corridors, such as the one provided in Elizabeth Street. DTP acknowledges that the Council's decision was a result of local community feedback and debate, and will continue to work closely with Council to ensure any new design meets the relevant standards and requirements.



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