

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

Portfolio:	Public Transport
Witness:	The Hon Ben Carroll MP, Minister for Public Transport
Committee Member:	Mr Sam Hibbins MP
Page/s of transcript:	10

Question:

Mr HIBBINS: Do you also anticipate increasing the size of the fleet? Because obviously transitioning the fleet is one thing, but there is also increasing the size of the fleet to increase the number and frequency of services.

Mr CARROLL: In the 5 seconds I have got left I can take that on notice. But building more and strengthening the fleet is very important.

Answer:

In June 2021, the Government released Victoria's Bus Plan which sets out how we will deliver a modern, productive, environmentally sustainable bus network that increases the number of people choosing to take the bus. The plan doesn't just focus on bus network changes, it prioritises the system as a whole, bringing together opportunities across the networks, bus fleet, performance, commercial, innovation and customer experience.

Since 2015 the Andrews Labor Government has invested over \$500 million in new, more frequent and extended bus services right across Victoria, with additional fleet often required to deliver the service uplift. Appropriate fleet types for the new service delivery are considered as part of the service planning process. The Department of Transport undertakes an ongoing program of bus network service reviews to inform these uplifts.

From 2025, all new public transport buses purchased in Victoria will be zero emissions. This includes new buses procured as replacements for existing diesel buses reaching end of life and also for additional network growth buses procured for new bus services and service level increases on existing routes. This is critical to helping the State achieve its legislated commitment of zero net emissions by 2050.

The Government has kick started this commitment through the awarding of the Metropolitan Bus Franchise contract to Kinetic that includes replacement of 36 buses with battery electric buses prior to 2025, the introduction of 50 battery electric buses and 2 hydrogen buses as part of the Zero Emissions Bus Trial and the continued work of the Department of Transport and bus operators to consider the introduction of zero emission buses where opportunities arise through bus service contracts prior to 2025.