

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

Portfolio:	Transport
Witness:	Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Committee Member:	Mr Hibbins
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Question:

What is the progress of that? Because I note there are some proposals from the City of Melbourne and other councils to actually fast-track bike lanes on state-controlled roads, which is obviously a state government responsibility. Where are we up to with those proposals?

Answer:

The Department of Transport (DOT) is working with metropolitan councils on pop up and temporary facilities to encourage cycling and walking.

Some of the initiatives assessed and fast tracked include temporary kerbside protection, reducing road lane width to accommodate bicycle lane or footpath, and traffic calming measures to boost shared zones.

Work on local roads have started and delivery should be completed by end of 2020 in some locations within the CBD.

The government is also prioritising design and delivery of active transport infrastructure, including either on-road cycling lanes or shared use paths, as part of many road and rail projects within its Big Build Program.

The Department continues to work collaboratively with metropolitan councils to assess infrastructure improvements for walking and cycling.

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Question:

Can I ask, in terms of the changes to public transport, the increased services that were announced, how much does that actually come to—the costing for that?

Answer:

The Victorian Government added hundreds of new train and tram services to the state's busiest lines every week to give passengers more choice on when they travel and help maintain physical distancing across the network.

There have been 95 extra train services on either side of the morning and afternoon peaks added to the metropolitan network each week. The Sunbury, Craigieburn, Werribee, Mernda, Dandenong, Ringwood and Glen Waverley lines each received an extra 10 services per week and the Hurstbridge line received five new services each week. The Frankston and Sandringham lines received an extra 10 services per week.

On the tram network, two new shuttle routes now run along Collins St – one during weekday peak periods along St George's Road, Brunswick Street and Collins Street using large E Class trams, and the second for up to 19 hours each day between Victoria Harbour and St Vincent's Plaza via Collins St.

Costs for the additional services are assessed in line with contractual requirements to determine appropriate cost outcome.

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Portfolio:	Transport
Witness:	Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Committee Member:	Mr Limbrick
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Question:

On the topic of safety, there are two issues that I would like to inquire about. One is about the air circulation systems on trains, trams and buses. Has there been any changes to either add filtration systems or stop using recirculated air or any of these sorts of things? I would be interested in that.

Answer:

Buses, trains and trams operate with air conditioning which contains filters. No additional filtration systems have been implemented and air-conditioning continues to be used.

The Department of Transport has also introduced additional services to operate in the shoulder-peak period across the network to assist with social distancing and spreading of passenger loads across the peak travel periods.

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Portfolio:	Transport
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Committee Member:	Mr O'Brien
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Question:

The Premier has been very keen to highlight that ADF were only used, in his words, for transport logistics in other states, which I do not think is actually right. Be that as it may, that has been the Premier's view. Was the ADF ever considered for the transport logistics?

Answer:

In support of the cross-agency response to transporting international travellers to quarantine hotels, the Department of Transport arranged bus transport through its contractor SkyBus.

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Question:

Minister, licence testing resumed across the state on 11 June, and at that time the then minister, Minister Pulford, said they would be hiring 200 new staff to clear the backlog of 100 000 tests. Can you give me an update as to where they have got to—whether those 200 staff were in fact employed, how many of the backlog you got through and how much the backlog is now in terms of licence testing?

Answer:

In June the Government announced a return to service plan focused on clearing the backlog of appointments for drive tests and other services.

85 additional staff members, sourced through Working for Victoria, commenced their licence testing officer training in July 2020 and have completed this training. In the period between licence testing resuming on 15 June and Stage 3 restrictions being reintroduced, almost 49,000 tests were completed.

License testing has again been suspended in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria based on advice from Victoria's Chief Health Officer. As soon as it is safe, we will bring back this service at a boosted capacity to clear the backlog quickly.

The Department of Transport will continue to work on initiatives to significantly boost our capacity to get through the backlog of computer-based and light vehicle tests once restrictions allow us to do so, including opening new pop-up testing sites and hiring additional staff.

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Portfolio:	Transport
Witness:	Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Committee Member:	Ms Vallence
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Question:

First my question is a question on notice to the Head of Transport Services, Mr Foa. Just picking up from Mr O'Brien's questions before, can you please provide a timeline for learner drivers online testing to the committee? On notice is fine, thank you.

Answer:

The Department of Transport (DoT) are presently exploring multiple technical solutions to support the future online delivery of the VicRoads learner permit test.

This includes options currently available in other jurisdictions that have similar road safety core competencies and looking at ways Service Victoria can support online identity validation.