

SOUTH WEST COACH LINES — COLLIE–BUNBURY SERVICE

267. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the cessation of the South West Coach Lines bus service between Collie and Bunbury on 1 February 2022 and to my questions without notice 216 and 244 asked in March.

- (1) Given the comments of the member for Collie–Preston, Ms Jodie Hanns, in the Collie River Valley Bulletin last Thursday that she was informed of the impending cessation in December, did the member for Collie–Preston inform the minister of the impending closure?
- (2) If yes to (1), on what specific date and in what form of communication?
- (3) Will the minister table that communication; and, if not, why not?
- (4) Was the minister informed of the impending closure by another source, including South West Coach Lines themselves; and, if so, when and how?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) As previously advised, the decision by South West Coach Lines to end its service is disappointing. The minister and Transwa will work with the member for Collie–Preston and the community to discuss their public transport needs and whether any potential improvements can be made to provide better links between Collie and Bunbury.

The state government’s commitment to improving public transport in Collie and the south west is clear. In 2018, the state government increased the frequency of Transwa road coach servicing into Collie, reversing cuts by the former Liberal–National government. The state government is also delivering a new, locally built, *Australind* train, following the failure of the former government to plan for or fund a replacement at the time it should have been replaced.