

SCHOOL BUS SERVICES — SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR

**1112. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the inquiry into the student transport assistance policy framework and the parents of students in the Shire of West Arthur who are extremely concerned about the delays by the state government in addressing their concerns as term 4 and the end of the year draw closer.

- (1) Has the minister responded to the correspondence sent on 2 June 2023 from the Shire of West Arthur?
  - (a) If yes to (1), on what date?
  - (b) If no to (1), why not?
  - (c) When will the minister respond?
- (2) The minister has said today that the new guidelines will be available in the next few months. By what specific calendar date will the new guidelines be available for public release?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. Noting that the question was asked on 14 September, the answer is current as at that date.

- (1) (a)–(c) A response will be provided to the Shire of West Arthur shortly. The Public Transport Authority has been in contact with affected families in the Shire of West Arthur who currently have children on school buses. By applying the new policy framework, I am pleased to advise that 16 students will have their status changed from complimentary to eligible. This represents 90 per cent of students travelling on school bus services in the area. Shire of West Arthur families who still require orange school bus transport for their children in 2024 are encouraged to apply for transport assistance as soon as possible via the School Bus Services website.
- (2) The new guidelines will be released within the next few months, allowing for any changes to be in place for the commencement of the 2024 school year.