

SOUTH WEST COACH LINES — COLLIE–BUNBURY SERVICE

582. 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) Will the minister now commit to provide a public bus service for the residents of Collie that will allow them to attend, amongst other areas, TAFE, university, employment and medical appointments in the City of Bunbury?
- (2) Will the minister commit to the provision of a subsidised public bus service operating daily, from Monday to Friday, between Collie and Bunbury?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) When will a decision be made on the service and when will it be communicated to the people of Collie?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(4) As advised previously, the decision by South West Coach Lines to end its service is disappointing. The minister and Transwa have been working with the member for Collie–Preston and the local community to discuss their public transport needs and whether any potential improvements can be made to provide better links between Collie and Bunbury. This work is nearing completion and will be announced in due course. The state government’s commitment to improving public transport in Collie and the south west is clear. In 2018, the 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.