

PORTFOLIO: TRANSPORT – PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

**ISSUE: OPENING STATEMENT FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ESTIMATES 15 JUNE 2016**

The Public Transport Authority continues to lead the nation in the provision of safe and efficient public transport services.

In July 2015, Canstar Blue, an independent consumer research company, announced that Transperth had won the 'City Trains - Most Satisfied Customers' award for the fourth year in a row.

In fact, Transperth has won this award each and every time the survey has been conducted. Perth was named as the best urban train system in the country beating the likes of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane by a significant margin.

- This strong independent rating was further reinforced by the results of Transperth's own annual Passenger Satisfaction Monitor which extends further to bus, train, ferry and even regional services.

This annual survey of over 4000 regular public transport users consistently returns satisfaction ratings of around 90% across the network of public transport services and helps to either reinforce strengths or highlight potential areas for improvement.

I understand that the results of the 2016 Passenger Satisfaction Monitor also look promising and I look forward the Minister for Transport making an announcement concerning these results in the coming months.

- Over the past year the Public Transport Authority has continued to enhance the frequency of existing public transport services and expand their network into new areas.

This Government has consciously made the biggest investment in bus service kilometres ever experienced in this State.

This investment has progressively grown to a point where over 13.5 million additional annual service kilometres, a measure of both service frequency and network coverage, were provided in 2014/15 representing a growth of over 26% when compared to 2008/09.

This investment has continued through 2015/16 with over 800,000 additional annual service kilometres to be added to the network by the end of the 2015/16 financial year.

Transperth's priority for the allocation of additional bus service kilometres has been:

- To provide additional capacity on services which were overloaded or suffering heavy passenger loadings for extended periods;
- To introduce new services to developing urban areas or developed urban areas not serviced by regular public transport;
- To increase capacity on existing Transperth services, particularly key strategic corridors during core weekday hours;
- To provide new opportunities for cross suburban travel.

During the 2015/16 financial year we saw the extension of bus services further north through the residential expansion in Ellenbrook and the introduction of new route 380 servicing the International Airport.

Enhancement of the metropolitan bus network will continue in 2016/17 with the planned commencement of route 960.

This new bus route operating between Mirrabooka and Curtin University via the new Perth Busport will operate on a 5 minute frequency between Curtin and ECU Mount Lawley at peak times.

This \$7m investment adds 20 new buses and a further one million annual bus service kilometers to the metropolitan bus network.

On top of this, the State Government is investing \$1.4 million in bus priority measures along Fitzgerald Street to ensure these services operate efficiently.

September 2015 saw the first anniversary of the Joondalup train line extension to Butler.

I remind Committee Members that that this project was delivered several months ahead of schedule, around \$20m under budget and it hit its projected daily patronage target of 2000 daily passenger boardings after only 9 days of services commencing on 21 September 2014.

Commencement of train services to this station, and also the expansion and enhancement of bus services in the local area that were introduced as part of this project, have had a significant impact in reducing the pressure on other Joondalup line stations further to the south.

Patronage continues to climb as commuters come to appreciate this new infrastructure and suite of public transport services and see public transport as an efficient means of getting where they need to go.

Transperth ferry services also experienced a boost this year in response to the significant growth in patronage experienced after the opening of Elizabeth Quay.

Placement of the new ferry terminal within the quay, adjacent to the Esplanade train station, allowed ferry services to capitalise on the public's enormous show of support for the new quay when it opened in January.

Patronage jumped over 400% in the first week and in response, Transperth extended the peak service frequency well into the evening throughout the week for the remainder of the summer timetable.

○ Regional commuters continue to benefit from the Avonlink train service enhancement trial which commenced in December 2014.

This trial has trebled train service frequencies on weekdays and introduced weekend and special event services to the timetable.

In April this year, TransGeraldton commenced a 6 month trail extension of route 854 to Cape Burney.

I hope that commuters vote with their feet so that this service, which was introduced on a trial basis based on community feedback, is retained.


○ The Public Transport Authority's efforts to expand and enhance public transport services are carried out throughout metropolitan and regional areas of WA and this will continue into 2016/17 and beyond.

Not only has the Public Transport Authority continued its strong performance in the delivery of public transport services in 2015/16, it has also completed or made significant progress in the delivery of new rollingstock and infrastructure.

Transperth continues to take delivery of new buses for bus replacement and service enhancement programs in both metropolitan and regional areas.

2015 saw the introduction of new Euro 6 emission standard buses into the fleet for the first time and deliveries of new rigid, articulated and Perth CAT buses are taken every few weeks.

Public / Internet

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In March 2016 the first of 23 new regional Transwa road coaches was delivered.

Today, two more brand new Transwa coaches were delivered bringing it to six delivered to date with a further three scheduled for delivery by June 30.

The remaining 14 new coaches will be delivered by January 2017.

This \$16.3 million investment in new coaches will ensure that regional public transport users experience a level of comfort and quality that they have not previously experienced.

19 x 3-railcar train sets from the Government's present order of 22 x 3-railcar train sets are already in service on the network.

The remaining 3 x 3-railcar train sets will be introduced into service in the coming months bringing the total number of Transperth railcars to 300.

This is a growth of 28% over the 234 railcar fleet inherited from the previous Government.

In the 2016-17 State Budget the Government confirmed an expansion of this railcar order by a further 10 x 3-railcar sets or another 30 railcars to service the new Forrestfield-Airport Link when it opens in 2020.

Government is, as we speak, finalising the contract for the supply of these railcars and has commenced associated works for enhancement to railcar depot and maintenance facilities.

2015/16 was another stellar year for progress on the State Government's comprehensive public transport infrastructure Asset Investment Program.

In April 2016 the Public Transport Authority finalised negotiations with the preferred joint venture proponent, Salini Impregilo and local company NRW Pty Ltd (SINRW), and awarded a \$1.176 billion contract to design, construct and maintain the Forrestfield-Airport Link.

This contract is to deliver the main package of works, including the train line and stations for this nearly \$2 billion project.

Various forward works have been underway at Forrestfield since November 2015. These forward works, worth around \$370 million, include things such as geotechnical work, contract management and land purchases.

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The joint venture is expected to mobilise on site in the coming months and the Government will be actively sharing news of milestones with the public as we move into the construction phase of this exciting project.

The \$576.4 million Perth City Link project will reconnect the city centre with Northbridge for the first time in more than 100 years.

The rail component of the project, which involved sinking part of the Fremantle train line between Perth Arena and Perth station, was completed in December 2013, well ahead of the mid-2014 scheduled date.

The underground bus station component of the works is well advanced with completion of this facility due next month.

The world class Perth Busport features lifts, stairs and escalators that connect passengers from the 3 ground-level entry points to the underground, 16-stand, air-conditioned lounge level. Large screens will provide passengers with up-to-date service information, including stand locations and departure times.

To complement the new Perth Busport, Government has committed \$32.1 million to the delivery of a new bus only bridge linking Charles Street over the Graham Farmer Freeway to the existing busway at James Street.

This will result in the removal of more than 1,000 buses a day from James and Fitzgerald streets in Northbridge, alleviating traffic congestion and improving local amenity and access.

About 16,000 passengers a day will travel over the bridge and busway and some northern suburbs passengers commuting to the CBD could have their journey times reduced by up to six minutes during peak times.

The Government is investing in a \$358.6 million transport package to compliment the Perth Stadium consisting of a new train station, new pedestrian bridge across the Swan River and two special event bus stations.

All major contracts have now been awarded with an overall status of about 50% completed by the end of the 2015/16 financial year.

Public transport will be the most efficient and effective way to travel to and from the new Perth Stadium. With over 35,000 of the 60,000 people capacity of the Stadium expected to use rail public transport and more than 14,000 people expected to use bus public transport, the provision of good public transport is essential.

Public / Internet

15 Feb 16 *APL*

in the coming 2016/17 financial year I expect to see the completion of the pedestrian bridge across the Swan River and significant progress on the train station and bus facilities.

In the 2015-16 budget, Government approved \$119.8 million to replace the obsolete analogue radio system used by the Public Transport Authority to operate its passenger rail services with a modern digital radio system capable of serving PTA's foreseeable needs over the next twenty years.

The reference design and procurement strategy is now complete and tenders will be invited in the near future.

Construction of the \$72 million Aubin Grove Station commenced in early 2016. The project includes a multi-modal station with approximately 2000 parking bays, bicycle facilities and connections to local paths, passenger amenities, including toilets, lifts, stairs and escalators.

- Construction of the station and road works in the precinct will be completed in early 2017.

The \$29.5 million Edgewater Station multi-storey car park will help ease the growing demand for parking along the Joondalup Line, particularly as Perth's population continues to grow in this area.

The ground plus two level multi-storey car park will increase Edgewater Station's total parking capacity to approximately 1450 bays.

Construction has commenced with completion scheduled for the end of 2016.

Recently, Government announced a new \$49 million Ellenbrook Bus Rapid Transit project.

- This project will deliver a seamless, 9 kilometre busway via dedicated bus lanes and bridges or underpasses through road intersections between Ellenbrook Town Centre and Marshall Road.

The project will lead to shorter, more reliable bus journey times for Ellenbrook residents and emerging residential developments between Reid Highway and Gnangara Road.

It will reduce the average bus journey time between Ellenbrook and Bassendean Station by up to 10 minutes in morning peak hour, with three new bus stations along the route.

A design and construct contract is expected to be released soon and construction is expected to commence late this calendar year.

Disappointingly, despite the significant investment by this Government in both the enhancement and expansion of services, the delivery of quality capital and infrastructure and the extremely high levels of customer satisfaction reflected in various customer surveys, public transport patronage continues to stagnate.

Clearly this stagnation is not a result of the quality of public transport services that are provided and unfortunately public transport patronage is a victim to other externalities and economic conditions.

This has not, and will not, stop this Government from investing in public transport services and infrastructure as has been clearly demonstrated in my comments today and as is clearly outlined in the 2016/17 State Budget documents the Committee will query here today.

Thank you Committee members and I look forward to your questions.

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