

Minister for Housing and Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Minister for Local Government

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000 Australia  
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia  
Email: Minister.Vincent@dpac.tas.gov.au



15 JUN 2026

Dr Shane Broad MP  
Member for Braddon

C/- haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Dr Broad

In the House of Assembly on 16 April 2026, you asked the following question:

*I've been contacted by a constituent, Alex Fairley, who stated his concerns that he was unable to catch a bus to Hobart for an interview due to limited capacity and has been informed by Kinetic that they have the capacity for more buses and more drivers; however, the government has said no due to the free travel being capped. His question is, if the government are wanting more people to travel using public transport, why don't they increase the capacity for people to be able to do so?*

To date, the Tasmanian Government's free fares initiative has shown clear success, with operators reporting higher passenger numbers across the network. Comparing April 2026 to April 2025, general access operators reported approximate patronage increases of nearly 40 per cent, which I am sure you would agree is a great outcome.

The Department of State Growth has been working with all public transport operators to carefully monitor service capacity since the commencement of free public transport. One example of this is Metro providing additional 'sweeper' services on routes which are consistently near or at capacity, to help ensure the increased demand on these routes is being met.

The department has not received a request from Kinetic regarding additional services due to excess demand. Kinetic, like other operators, has however indicated they have capacity to put on additional services if required.

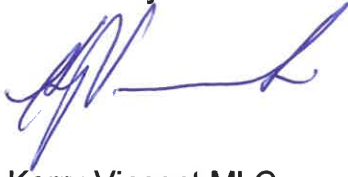
I am aware of increased bookings for Kinetic intercity services. Kinetic has advised the department there are increased instances of passengers booking seats but not travelling, resulting in services appearing fully booked despite seats being available at departure. To better use the existing available capacity on Kinetic's buses, for fully booked services, Kinetic is now operating a standby list, allowing passengers to board when booked passengers do not board.

Other regional bus operators report they are experiencing increased patronage, but this increased demand is currently being met with existing operational capacity.

The department is continuing to monitor increased patronage levels and will continue to work with operators to identify appropriate changes to accommodate increased demand where needed.

Thank you for your question and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Vincent', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC  
**Minister for Infrastructure and Transport**