

The Hon Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Transport
Leader of the House

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Ms Jen Butler
Member for Lyons

07 JUN 2024

Email laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Butler

I refer to your constituent question asked on 21 May 2024 in Parliament, regarding rock throwing instances at Metro buses in and around the Gagebrook area.

Any acts of violence or anti-social behaviour that occurs on, around, or to buses is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The safety of all employees is very important to Metro, and indeed the Tasmanian Government.

As you would be aware, Metro has an obligation under law to protect its staff whilst at work and always prioritises the safety of staff and customers.

Regrettably, as a result of dangerous and persistent rock throwing incidents directed at Metro buses in the Gagebrook and Herdmans Cove area, Metro ceased services into Gagebrook and Herdmans Cove daily from 5pm.

Pleasingly, due to current safety measures there has been reduction in incidents over recent weeks. With the support of Tasmania Police, Metro has adjusted measures for East Derwent Highway services to allow limited access to Gagebrook until 7:15pm.

This means that the Route 522 will commence and terminate at Cove Hill Fair after 5:00pm. From 5:00pm routes 530, X30 and 696 will commence from the bus stop after Riveria Dr on the East Derwent Hwy and terminate at Gage Rd South opposite the United Service Station. The 7:45pm Route 530 OUT (Monday – Friday), which will still terminate at Riviera Drive, Old Beach.

To help customers plan their journey whilst these arrangements are in place, Metro encourages customers to call the Metro hotline on 13 22 01 to seek further information for their travel.

Metro is working closely with Tasmania Police, the Department of State Growth and Brighton Council, and will continue to actively monitor the situation. However, if further rock throwing incidents occur, Metro will need to again consider reducing services to prioritise the safety of its customers and staff.

To address anti-social behaviour more broadly, Metro continues to work closely with the authorities to investigate incidents while building a proactive approach with the community sector to deter this type of behaviour in the future. Metro is working closely with a wide range of stakeholders across law enforcement, community groups, PCYCs and schools.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', written in a cursive style.

Hon Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Transport