

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

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Ms Tabitha Badger MP
Member for Lyons

14 OCT 2025

C/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Badger

In the House on 9 September 2025 you asked the following question:

My question is to the transport minister on behalf of Jack, who is a teenager in Bridgewater. Jack and his schoolmates cannot attend school on Fridays because the 5.30 a.m. Cofield to Montrose route doesn't run that morning despite operating every other day of the week. This disruption not only effects those attending schools but those who rely on public transport to get to work. Minister, what will you do to reinstate the service or if the service cannot be reinstated, will you step up, minister? What alternative measures will you put in place to ensure Jack and the other kids in Bridgewater can just get to school and not miss out on vital education?

In 2023 Metro Tasmania suspended several services due to a significant driver shortage. This is not a unique problem to Tasmania and transport companies across Australia have faced similar issues. Jack's bus is a general access service and was one of the services suspended on Fridays.

Whilst Metro has worked to stabilise its workforce and return a significant portion of services, Jack's bus trip on Fridays remains suspended. Metro has informed me that unfortunately it is unable to return that service at this time. Whilst Metro acknowledge that this is not ideal, it has spoken with Jordan River School to determine how many students are affected. Metro has advised me that to their knowledge, Jack is the only student affected and that Jordan River School provide allowances for the fact that Jack arrives about 10-15 minutes late on Fridays.

Metro has also flagged Jack's concerns with the Department of State Growth and asked this to be considered as it undertakes its review of the Greater Hobart Bus Network.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport