

19 January 2021

Ms Jess Zutt
President
Mount Cotton State School P&C
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Dear Ms Zutt

I am writing further to your discussions with the Department of Transport and Main Roads' TransLink Division (TransLink) and the Honourable Mick de Brenni, Member for Springwood, about school services from Mt Cotton State School (MCSS) to the Mt Cotton township.

I would, firstly, like to thank you for the information you provided through the comprehensive travel survey of student families undertaken by the P&C to assist with our investigation.

Please be advised that TransLink representatives recently met with Minister de Brenni again to further discuss the outcomes of the Term 1, 2021 school service change review that addressed the overcrowding concerns you have previously raised. This meeting also raised the issues relating to the inability of buses to continue servicing roads within the Cotton Ridge estate and The Woods estate of Mt Cotton township.

Following these discussions, I would like to update you on the Term 1 2021 changes to MCSS bus services.

To overcome the issue of overcrowding for the start of Term 1 2021, TransLink is amending the existing 5102PM service alignment to provide a dedicated afternoon service focussed on Mt Cotton State School only. The 5102PM previously used to service only The Woods Estate from MCSS, before travelling north to service Sheldon College.

From term 1 2021, the 5102PM will depart MCSS and service Papaya Street, Hardwood Drive, Valley Way, Seeana Drive to the Pimelea Crescent roundabout of The Woods Estate and Village Drive to the Settlers Court roundabout of the Cotton Ridge Estate. This focus on MCSS students significantly increases the usable passenger capacity for students between the school and Mt Cotton township.

TransLink feels these changes will sufficiently address the overcrowding issues MCSS students have experienced. Please be assured we will continue to monitor the performance of this service change to ensure it is providing an efficient and reliable service that meets the needs of the community.

Unrelated to the above capacity requests and due to ongoing safety concerns raised by bus drivers, our delivery partner, Transdev, recently advised they will no longer circulate through the Cotton Ridge Estate and the Woods Estate. The issues raised relate to insufficient road widths, traffic calming measures, vehicles parked on streets obstructing the path for buses resulting in delays and damage to vehicles.

Under National Heavy Vehicle Licensing regulations, if sustained concerns are raised by drivers relating to the safe operation of a vehicle, the bus operator and TransLink are required to show that these matters have been investigated and actions implemented to enable services to continue safely.

The majority of streets used by buses within the estates do not meet guidelines to safely operate a large vehicle and if a new service were to be implemented today, routing through the estate would not be supported. Therefore, regrettably, the decision was made to remove buses from running through the estates.

Following the meeting with Minister de Brenni, TransLink has discussed this matter with TransDev who have agreed that all services will enter The Woods estate as far as the first roundabout on Seeana Drive at the intersection with Pimelea Crescent. This will ensure students can be picked up within the estate and greatly reduces the walking distance required to access services.

In addition to this, TransLink is currently investigating with Redlands City Council whether routes would be able to pass through The Woods Estate. This would require further intervention, not limited to modification of traffic calming measures and the introduction of parking restrictions. Updates on the progress of these discussions with Redlands City Council will be provided to Minister de Brenni.

I have enclosed maps detailing these changes for your information. I would again like to thank you for your assistance in this matter and for bringing these concerns to our attention. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Longland
Deputy Director-General (TransLink Division)
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Route 5102PM

- Map illustrates the 5102PM service alignment to provide a dedicated MCSS service to support the overcrowded 5103PM
- The green route is the new 5102PM Term 1, 2021 realignment which now also includes the section of the Woods Estate to the 1st roundabout.
- The red route is the current 5102PM, which shows only the section after departing MCSS which is relevant to their students.



Route 5103PM

- Map illustrates the 5103PM service alignment to show that the Cotton Ridge estate will only be serviced as far as the first roundabout.



Please note that all services that used to go into The Cotton Ridge Estate and the Woods Estate have been amended to go into the first roundabout rather than circulating through. This includes routes 5062AM/PM, 5012PM, 5042AM/PM. Of these, only 5062AM is currently used by MCSS students.