

**RESPONSE TO PETITION**

**Petition Number:** 575  
**Petition Sponsored by:** Mr Trung Luu MP  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public and Active Transport  
**Tabled on:** 14/10/2024

**Petition Grievance:**

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the need for immediate action to address the critical issue of inadequate public transport services in Tarneit. The complete lack of reliable bus services in Tarneit's new and established developments is causing significant challenges for residents, impacting their daily lives and economic stability. Many residents in Tarneit North are forced to walk up to 30 minutes to reach Tarneit Station, which results in delays and difficulties, especially in adverse weather conditions. The existing FlexiRide on-demand service, operating from 6.00 am to 9.30 pm Monday to Friday, fails to meet the community's needs due to high peak-hour demand, making timely bookings difficult.

There are insufficient parking spaces at Tarneit Station which leads to infringement notices for residents who cannot find legal parking, adding a financial strain and discouraging the use of public transport. The inadequate public transport services in Tarneit also impacts employment and students and puts constraints on basic shopping due to the lack of bus stops in the community.

We believe that improvements to public transport services in Tarneit are essential for enhancing the quality of life for Wyndham Tarneit residents and reducing reliance on private vehicles, promoting public transport usage, and fostering economic growth.

**Petition Action:**

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council calls on the Government to immediately establish a dedicated bus service in Tarneit North with regular and reliable services to and from Tarneit Station, provide more frequent and reliable bus services in peak hours and expand parking facilities at Tarneit Station until a new station is established.

**Reply:**

I thank the Member for Western Metropolitan Region and his constituents for raising this matter.

The Allan Labor Government recognises the important role buses play in meeting the travel needs of people living in Melbourne's growing suburbs. Buses are a vital part of Victoria's integrated transport system, with around 400 regular bus routes servicing metropolitan Melbourne, and local bus networks operating in regional towns and cities.

In June 2021, we released Victoria's Bus Plan which sets out how we will start to deliver a modern, productive, environmentally sustainable bus network that increases the number of people choosing to take the bus by delivering simple, safe, reliable, and comfortable journeys. It notes important opportunities for the bus network including leveraging connectivity with the rail network and making the most of investment in infrastructure.

We are continuing to improve the state's bus network in line with Victoria's Bus Plan to better meet demand, improve accessibility and performance, and deliver value for money. This includes creating a simpler, faster, and more reliable network.

Nearly 20,000 additional bus services have been added since 2014 and more than 200 bus routes have either been improved or added to Victoria's bus network since the launch of Victoria's Bus Plan in 2021, adding thousands more services to the network.

The Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution Program (GAIC) will help fund essential infrastructure to create resilient and liveable communities in Melbourne's fastest growing suburbs in the seven major growth area councils of Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Mitchell, Whittlesea and Wyndham.

GAIC will fund new Route 154, which is designed to provide a direct link between Tarneit Station and Laverton Station via the employment area in Truganina and Laverton North. Operating seven days a week, Route 154 will give locals access to jobs in the employment areas that are currently inaccessible by public transport. Residents who commute will have a choice of V/Line and Metro train services. More details will become available closer to implementation and will be communicated with the public.

In November 2023, we opened a new bus interchange at Tarneit Station which allows for more bus services to run more often. The new Tarneit Station bus interchange in the southern car park improves accessibility – better connecting the community to local schools, shops and employment, and providing a comfortable shelter for commuters year-round. The new bus interchange is funded through the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution fund.

I acknowledge and am aware of the high demand for parking at Tarneit Station. To address car parking demand at train stations, the government has delivered more than 19,000 new and upgraded car parking spaces at some of our busiest metropolitan and regional stations, with 2,000 additional new and upgraded spaces to come. At Tarneit Station, 500 new and upgraded car parking spaces, drop-off zones, and secure bicycle storage were delivered in 2022 and 2023.

While there are currently no further planned car parking upgrades at Tarneit Station, as part of Victoria's Big Build, the Allan Labor Government will build a new station in Tarneit West to help better connect the growing suburbs of the west. To be located at Davis and Leakes Roads, the new station will include a pedestrian crossing, a 4 bay bus interchange and parking for up to 400 commuters.



**Gabrielle Williams MP**  
Minister for Public and Active Transport