

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Public Transport

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



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MAJOR REVIEW OF MILDURA BUSES SET TO IMPROVE NETWORK

The Andrews Labor Government is undertaking a major review of Mildura's bus network as part of a plan to develop a modern, faster, more reliable and environmentally sustainable network for the community.

The review will roll out over the next five weeks and will include face-to-face and online consultation with the Mildura community, including residents, businesses, bus operators and local government, to better understand current travel behaviours.

Consultation in Mildura starts on Monday, 12 September with the launch of an online survey and will run until Sunday, 16 October with several face-face sessions in the local community planned.

This engagement will give a better understanding of how people currently use their bus services, but also what would encourage them to use buses more – including where, when and how they would like to travel.

This information will help inform future planning for bus reform in Mildura and provide insights and learnings that might be applied to other metropolitan or regional networks.

Further consultation is being rolled out in several areas in Melbourne's north and north east as part of a major review of these local bus networks.

This review is part of the implementation of *Victoria's Bus Plan*, released in June 2021, which sets out how the Labor Government will shape the bus network in ways that increases the number of people choosing to take the bus by delivering simple, safe, reliable and comfortable journeys.

This includes examining new and innovative ways of delivering bus services such as demand responsive services. It is also looking at cleaner, smarter fleets with more bus types and improvements to accessibility and safety.

Mildura locals can find out more about the consultation process and have their say about the bus network in their community by visiting engage.vic.gov.au/busreform.

Quote attributable to Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll

"We're investing in Mildura's public transport network by thoroughly examining how we can improve local bus services in growth areas, implement bus reform, improve accessibility and deliver better outcomes for passengers."

"We are focused on delivering a modern, productive, environmentally sustainable bus network that increases the number of people choosing to take the bus."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"Through this consultation we will be able to understand what is important to local public transport users, so we can continue to focus on what matters as we plan the region's future bus network."