

CONSTITUENCY QUESTION

Question asked by: Mr Rodney Barton Eastern Metropolitan Region

Region:

Directed to: Minister for Public Transport

Asked on: 15/10/2019

Question:

My constituency question is addressed to the Minister for Public Transport, Melissa Horne. Orbital SmartBus services in Melbourne have been hugely successful, moving approximately 13 million passengers every year. The ability for passengers to have live and updated information about the next bus service is what makes SmartBuses so appealing. For many residents in the suburbs, education, health facilities and other services are currently unreachable by public transport. The City of Manningham in particular lacks the essential connections to these facilities. University students suffer a lengthy and multi-bus trip to reach Monash, Deakin or La Trobe. A SmartBus along the proposed Suburban Rail Loop would not only connect Melbournians sooner but also provide a perfect opportunity to show the potential benefits and demand for the loop services. Following the advice of a famous musician, if you like it you should put a bus on it, the question is: will the minister put a SmartBus service on the proposed Suburban Rail Loop, and if not, how will the increasing orbital demand of suburban Melbournians be met?

Reply:

The existing bus network has provided SmartBus on some of the sections along the proposed Suburban Rail Loop. For City of Manningham in particular, SmartBus 903 provides connections linking Box Hill station, Doncaster Shopping Town and Heidelberg station. There are several bus routes serving Deakin and Monash University, providing connections between Universities and key transport nodes such as key railway stations.

The government recognises the important role that buses play in meeting the travel needs of people living in Melbourne's. The Department of Transport (DoT) regularly reviews the local bus networks to identify where improvements can be made. I have asked DoT to consider your feedback in future reviews and network planning.



Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Public Transport