



23 March 2020
Department of State Growth

NW bus changes deferred

In light of COVID-19, and in order to minimise disruption to communities, the decision has been made to delay implementation of the north west bus network changes which were scheduled to commence on 19 April 2020.

Planned changes to intercity services between Hobart and Launceston, and Launceston and Devonport have also been delayed.

The intention is that the north west network changes will now commence in January 2021 as this will allow any changes to school bus services to commence at the start of the school year.

There are some unavoidable changes to the network that need to proceed for contractual reasons, this includes the introduction of the north west express service to be operated by Merseylink, which will replace the Hospital Link Service currently operated by Metro Tasmania. Negotiations are underway with Merseylink, with all efforts being made to minimise changes to timetables and services in the short term through what is already an uncertain time for people.

Taking advantage of the new seven day a week bus service from the West Coast to Burnie, the department is now working with Tassielink to extend their service to the North West Regional Hospital, on request, so that there is another transport option for people on the West Coast to get to and from this hospital.

The situation with COVID-19 is rapidly evolving and we will reassess timing for rollout of the north west bus network as the longer-term outlook becomes clearer.

The latest information on the status of changes to bus networks will continue to be available at www.transport.tas.gov.au