

## What is the 16 Regional Cities Program?

The NSW Government is rolling out the 16 Regional Cities Services Improvement Program which is a commitment to improving public transport services throughout regional NSW. Improvements to regional bus services aim to provide better connections to where customers need to go for work, schools, health, and social and recreational activities.

The program consists of two work streams - top priorities and holistic transport planning. Both streams will be carried out for the identified 16 regional cities across NSW.

## What are the objectives of the program?

- Better meet customers travel needs
- Provide equitable access to public transport
- Provide integrated, multi-modal, end-to-end journeys
- Provide cross border journeys (Albury, Queanbeyan and Tweed Heads)
- Improve customer information
- Improve asset usage and operational efficiency
- Streamline service offerings.

## How will the bus service changes be implemented?

The Top Priorities phase will introduce some targeted early service improvements to the existing bus network. These will be delivered in mid to late 2020.

After the early service improvements have been introduced, a more extensive review will start for each of the locations.

The Holistic Planning phase will include a review of the whole public transport network in the city, identification of travel needs and gaps to help develop and deliver an integrated transport services plan. These are expected to be completed by late 2023

## What stage are you up to in Orange?

Top Priority service improvements were delivered in Orange on 20 July 2020. This means we have started the Holistic Planning phase for Orange.

We are now seeking feedback from public transport users and the wider community in the Orange area about how the local bus network is used, service needs and desires. This will help inform future planning to create a better bus network for Orange.

You can submit your feedback by 16 August 2020 online at [yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/better-bus-network-orange](https://yoursay.transport.nsw.gov.au/better-bus-network-orange), by calling 1800 717 528, emailing [regionalcitiesprogram@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalcitiesprogram@transport.nsw.gov.au) or by post to 16 Regional Cities – Orange, Locked Bag 2030, Newcastle NSW 2300.

### What's next?

We will consider community and stakeholder feedback in developing service changes and keep the community informed about any decisions. The changes are expected to be implemented in early 2021.

### Is the NSW Government making changes to bus networks in other cities too?

In December 2019, the Tweed benefited from more than 450 additional weekly services to the Tweed bus network.

In March 2020, Wagga Wagga received a boost to bus services with a new timetable delivering more than 240 extra bus services a week.

Planning is progressing for other regional cities, which include:

- Wagga Wagga – complete
- Tweed Heads – complete
- Griffith
- Bathurst –
- Orange –
- Dubbo
- Parkes
- Port Macquarie
- Coffs Harbour
- Grafton
- Albury
- Nowra-Bomaderry
- Queanbeyan
- Tamworth
- Armidale
- Lismore

### Will there be some changes to school services?

There is potential for changes to school services and we welcome feedback on all local and school services as part of this consultation.

### Will bus trips cost the same?

There are no proposed changes to the cost of bus trips. More information about regional bus fares is available at [transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/regional-tickets-fares/regional-buses-fares](https://transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/regional-tickets-fares/regional-buses-fares).

### When will these cities get Opal?

- At this stage there are no plans to expand Opal to regional networks outside of the greater Sydney area.
- Information about Opal and Opal updates is available at [transportnsw.info/opal](https://transportnsw.info/opal).

### How can I get additional information?

- For Transport information and to plan your trip visit [transportnsw.info](https://transportnsw.info)
- For information about the program visit [transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/16-regional-cities-program](https://transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/16-regional-cities-program)
- Information about the new bus network across Orange, school services and fares is available at [Bus Lines Group](https://www.buslinesgroup.com.au) website.