

## Bus service improvements for Griffith

### Why are there changes to the public transport network in Griffith?

- It's important that people have a public transport network that they want to use, so we asked the key stakeholders in Griffith about local bus services, the community's transport needs and challenges in getting around.
- Key stakeholders identified that the community wanted more reliable services and better connections to the places they want to visit, at the time they want to go.
- Using feedback we received from stakeholders, we've created a network with additional services to help customers get to work, TAFE, shops, doctors' appointments, social and recreational places.

### What changes are being made to the Griffith bus routes?

- 57 additional weekly services have been added to the existing timetable
- Trips have been added to early mornings and late afternoons on weekdays, and from midday to late afternoons on Saturdays
- The additional trips will enable travel to and from employment, TAFE, dining, as well as local connectivity to/from the new rail service to Goulburn
- Route-wise changes are outlined below:

#### Route 940: Griffith to East Griffith (& return)

- Extension of weekday hours of services from 6 pm until 8 pm by introducing one additional return trip on all weeknights.
- Introduction of a Thursday-only early morning service to Griffith station to connect to the new rail service (to Goulburn) departing at 07:25 am
- Extension of Saturday hours from midday to 7 pm by introducing additional 4 return trips

#### Route 941: Griffith to North Griffith (& return)

- Extension of weekday morning hours from 9 am to 7 am by introducing one additional trip on all weekday mornings
- Extension of weekday afternoon hours from 5 pm until 7 pm by introducing one additional trip on all weeknights

- Extension of Saturday hours from midday to 7 pm by introducing additional 4 return trips

**Route 942: Griffith to Pioneer / South Griffith (& return)**

- Extension of weekday morning hours from 9 am to 7 am by introducing one additional trip on all weekday mornings
- Extension of weekday afternoon hours from 5 pm until 7 pm by introducing one additional trip on all weeknights
- Introduction of an additional Thursday-only early morning trip connecting to Griffith station to provide local transport for customers catching the new rail service (to Goulburn) departing at 07:25 AM on Thursday mornings
- Introduction of an additional Wednesday-only late evening trip connecting to Griffith station to provide local transport for customers arriving on the new rail service (from Goulburn) arriving at 08:35 PM on Wednesday nights
- On Saturdays, introduction of a new return trip at midday, and extension of hours until 8 pm by introducing additional 3 return trips

**Route 946: Griffith to Mayfair / Three Ways (& return)**

- Extension of weekday morning hours from 9 am to 7 am by introducing one additional trip on all weekday mornings
- Extension of weekday afternoon hours from 5 pm until 7 pm by introducing one additional trip on all weeknights
- Introduction of an additional Thursday-only early morning trip connecting to Griffith station to provide local transport for customers catching the new rail service (to Goulburn) departing at 07:25 AM on Thursday mornings
- Introduction of an additional Wednesday-only late evening trip connecting to Griffith station to provide local transport for customers arriving on the new rail service (from Goulburn) arriving at 08:35 PM on Wednesday nights
- Extension of Saturday hours from midday to 6 pm by introducing additional 4 return trips

**Route 947: Griffith to East & North Griffith (Wednesday nights only)**

- On Wednesday nights only, to provide local transport for customers arriving on the new rail service from Goulburn arriving at 08:35 PM, a new route 947 will be introduced. This service will operate on a combined route path of routes 940 and 941, providing a single trip servicing East Griffith and North Griffith.

### **Will any existing routes or times be impacted by this change?**

- There will be no changes to any existing services that are in the current timetable.

### **Will there be changes to bus stop locations?**

- Existing bus stops will be used along the new Griffith bus network.
- Transport for NSW worked closely with Griffith City Council and the Operator to identify and update time-restrictions at certain bus zones. Some parking may be impacted at these locations.
- Generally, walking distance to a nearby bus stops is approximately 400m to 700m.
- Customers can plan their trip at [www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info).

### **Are there alternative transport services for senior customers?**

- Public transport is available for all community members to use.
- Senior customers are entitled to a discounted fare when traveling on the Griffith bus network. Customers can plan their trip at [www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info).
- Alternatively, Intereach Community Transport provides services to recreational and shopping areas, medical and social services and social contact for people experiencing transport disadvantage, including:
  - people who are financially disadvantaged, isolated, lack public transport or have a mobility impairment
  - older people who are frail and their carers
  - people with disabilities and their carers
  - Intereach Community Transport can be contacted on 1300 488 226
- Vision impaired customers may be eligible for the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme - for further details, please visit <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/point-to-point-transport/transport-disability-incentives-and-subsidies>.

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

- No school services in Griffith have been changed as part of this initiative.

### **Will bus trips cost the same?**

- Yes. There will be no changes to the cost of a bus trip.
- More information about regional bus fares is available at [transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/regional-tickets-fares/regional-buses-fares](http://transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/regional-tickets-fares/regional-buses-fares).

### **Was there any consultation undertaken before introducing changes to the Griffith bus network?**

Griffith City Council, the scheduled bus operator Griffith Buslines, the community transport operator Intereach, and the Visitor Centre were all consulted in this process.

Some of the key themes captured from stakeholder feedback included:

- Coverage of bus routes
- Frequency and hours of services
- Connectivity to workplaces and employment opportunities
- Connectivity to key destinations
- Weekend services so people can access social activities
- Evening services
- Better customer information

### **When will the community get opportunities to have their say and provide feedback?**

Community feedback and inputs will be sought in the next phase (Holistic Planning) of service planning, which is expected to kick off in early 2022. During Holistic Planning, wider community and stakeholder consultation, led by a Human Centred Design approach, will be undertaken.

### **When will Griffith 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 [www.transportnsw.info/opal](http://www.transportnsw.info/opal)

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

The improvements to the bus network across Griffith is part of the NSW Government's regional Growth Buses program which is an election commitment to improving public transport services throughout regional NSW.

Improvements to bus services in Griffith provide better connections to where customers need to go for work, schools, health, and social and recreational activities.

In December 2019, the Tweed benefited from more than 450 additional weekly services to the Tweed bus network. Over the coming months planning will progress for other regional cities. The 16 regional cities in the program include:

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

### How will the bus service changes be implemented?

The program consists of two work streams: top priorities and holistic planning.

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

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 complete by late 2023.

The current changes to the Griffith bus network in July 2020 is the Top Priorities phase, which will be followed by a more extensive review expected to kick off in early 2022.

### How can I get additional information?

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