



## YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

Monday, 5 December 2022

Hon. Eva Lawler  
Minister for Education  
[Minister.Lawler@nt.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Lawler@nt.gov.au)

Re: Tennant Creek Schools | Bus Transport

Dear Eva,

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations held the December quarterly Executive Meeting on Saturday, 3 December.

The Barkly Regional Rep, Wayne Green, provided an update on the Tennant Creek school transport. Wayne advised that he had followed up on the progress with a department contact who stated they would discuss with their line manager and get back to him with progress information.

That was two (2) months ago.

We ask that the department place a level of urgency on finalising the provision of school transport for students at Tennant Creek Primary and High schools.

We look forward to a formal update prior to the end of the school year (Thursday 15 December).

Thank you Eva.

Kind Regards,

Tabby Fudge  
President

### Barkly Transport | NTCOGSO Advocacy History

<b>2021 December 6 - NT COGSO formally wrote to Hon. Eva Lawler, Minister for Infrastructure:</b>
"The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NTCOGSO) Executive met on Saturday 4 December 2021.
This meeting resolved to formally write to you regarding the ongoing issue of Tennant Creek Primary and High schools having to fund bus services through their school budgets. This includes costs associated for the provision of student transport of a driver, repairs & maintenance, and all fuel.
It is our understanding that the schools have also had to purchase vehicles.

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**NT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS**

ABN 76 529 588 572



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There are occasions when the bus driver is unavailable, and a teacher is having to drive the school bus. This would not be acceptable at any other regional school.

All other urban and regional towns have a funded bus service to transport students. Tennant Creek deserves the same equitable, funded service.

**ACTION 1: PRESIDENT TO WRITE TO MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND LOGISTICS, EVA LAWLER, TO FOLLOW UP ON SCHOOL BUS STUDENT TRANSPORT OUTSTANDING ITEM**

### **2021 August 27 - Response received from Hon. Lauren Moss Minister for Education:**

“A review of school transport services that was due to be undertaken prior to 2020 has been delayed due to COVID-19. The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is currently undertaking the review in consultation with the Department of Education (the Department). Once the review is finalised the Government will consider potential longer-term solutions for the school.”

### **2021 August 9 – NTCOGSO formally wrote to Hon. Lauren Moss Minister for Education**

We are seeking for the Department of Infrastructure to finalise this inequitable matter which has been raised for four (4) years by NTCOGSO, to take effect prior to day 1, term 1, 2022.

We request that funding is allocated and a tender awarded for the provision of student bus travel to Tennant Creek schools as a matter of urgency.

Formally requested Minister for Education provide the following updates:

1. PROVISION OF AN UPDATE ON ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, EVA LAWLER. IF NO DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HAD, TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS ISSUE.
2. REQUESTED AN UPDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE “REVIEW OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT SERVICES UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO 2020.”

### **2021 May 3**

Barkly Regional Representative advised Tennant Creek schools had not received an update on the progress on this issue.

### **2018 Sep 11**

Meeting with The Hon. Eva Lawler Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, on the provision of a Tennant Creek bus service.

### **2018 Aug 20**

Meeting with The Hon. Selena Uiibo Minister for Education, Min. Schools Advisor; Chief of Staff; Media Advisor – on the provision of a Tennant Creek schools bus service.



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### 2018 August 16 - NTCOGSO Response

NTCOGSO formally wrote requesting a meeting with The Hon. Eva Lawler, Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to discuss transport arrangements for Tennant Creek schools.

### 2018 April 23 - DoE Response

- The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics manages contracted school bus services.
- Current bus contracts expire at the of 2020. A review of school transport services will be undertaken prior to 2020 to inform future delivery.
- Tennant Creek High School and Tennant Creek Primary School use their own buses and drivers. No specific funding has been provided for the bus runs; costs are covered by the schools through their global school budgets.

### 2017 NT COGSO Annual Full Council | Motion 5.10 Passed

#### Student Transport to both Tennant Creek High and Primary Schools

*“THAT NT COGSO lobby the Department of Transport, NT Government, Ministers/local members (all relevant departments) to provide funding to both Tennant Creek High School and Primary School to provide student transport to and from school out of the federal budget not the global budget and reimbursement of previous years.”*

#### Background

At present there is no free public transport for school students in Tennant Creek. These two schools are providing from their own funds, a morning and afternoon bus run to ensure there is sufficient transport for students to get to school on time and returned home safely. This entails the schools having to pay fuel, vehicle (Bus) repairs and maintenance and the wage costs for School Council employees as Bus Drivers (at least 2 hours per session as per Fair Work Act). These school budget expenses are not required in any other region such as in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine where bus transport is provided free of charge for all school students.