

Whanganui Urban Bus Services: Upcoming changes 2018/19

The below changes have come about following a consultative process with the Whanganui community regarding the Whanganui Urban Bus Services, which are due to be retendered in 2018. Horizons is appreciative of everyone who took the time to fill out the survey and provide their comments on the service. As a result of this feedback a number of changes were investigated. Some of those changes have been adopted (see below). There were a number of other suggestions proposed by members of the public which have been discounted due to cost and/or uncertainty regarding demand for the services.

The majority of these changes will come into effect in October 2019 when the new contract commences. The exception being the public holiday services which will come into effect from 1 July 2018 (and operate in accordance with the current Saturday timetable).

Change 1: Increased Saturday services

All routes will have six services running on a Saturday. The route structure will remain the same with services running for Castlecliff, Whanganui East, and the combined Saturday service for Aramoho and Springvale/St Johns Hill).

The additional services will be spread throughout the day to provide more options for passengers to get to the CBD or other areas of the City.

Change 2: Public Holiday services

Under this change, services will be provided on Public Holidays. The public holiday services will operate in accordance with the Saturday timetable.

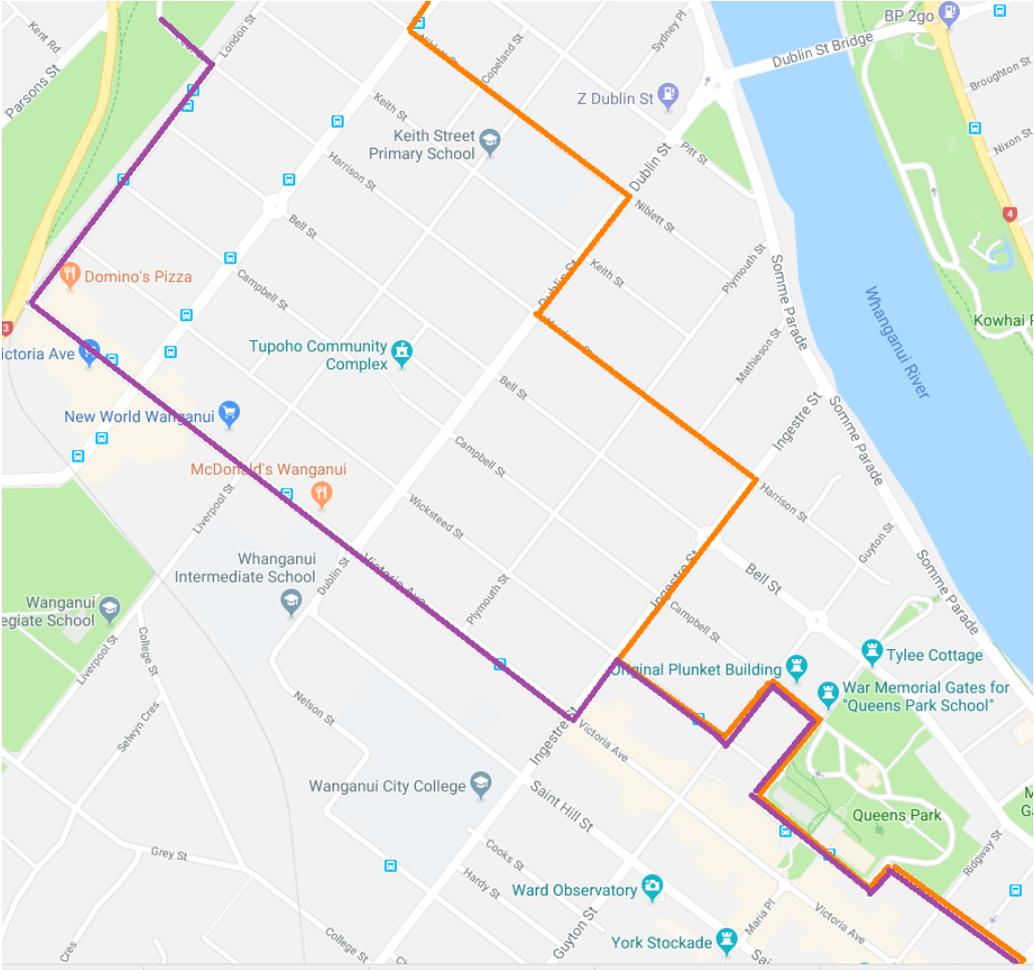
Public holiday services will apply to all public holidays, **except:** Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day or ANZAC Day.

Change 3: Additional weekday service on all routes

Under this change, all current routes (Castlecliff, Aramoho, Whanganui East, Springvale/St Johns Hill) will have 1 additional service per day. The additional service will be provided at the end of the day for the Castlecliff, Aramoho and Whanganui East routes to provide a later service for workers to get home after 5pm. The additional service for Springvale/St Johns Hill will leave just prior to 3pm.

Change 4: Amendment to the Aramoho route

This change incorporates an additional residential area on the loop which was previously not part of the route. The new route will travel along Niblett Street, Dublin Street and Harrison Street, on the orange section of the route. The purple section of the route will continue to travel up Victoria Avenue as it does currently. The map below shows the new loop. **Note**, the remainder of the route (not shown) remains the same.



Other changes:

Timetables: A number of survey responses highlighted that the current timetable is confusing and it is difficult to find information on services. As part of the review, we will be looking to redevelop the timetable with a view to simplifying it. We will also investigate ways to make access to timetable information easier and readily available.

Bus stop infrastructure: A number of survey respondents highlighted dissatisfaction with the current bus stop infrastructure (including inadequate signage and lack of shelters). While infrastructure changes were not part of the review scope, Horizons is committed to working with Whanganui District Council to do a stocktake of the current infrastructure and develop a strategy for improving this over time.