

## Back to School by School Buses

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure manage the school bus services throughout the Northern Territory and are ready for the start of the new school year.

With the start of the new school year and the introduction of Middle Schools, the Department will commence operating 11 additional school bus routes in the Darwin, Palmerston and rural areas.

Schools have copies of all school bus routes and timetables where parents and students can obtain a copy to help decide which is the most suitable bus.

Copies of route maps and timetables can also be downloaded from the website.

[www.nt.gov/publictransport](http://www.nt.gov/publictransport) and follow the links.

When boarding a school bus, students will be required to show the bus driver a valid school bus pass or bus ticket or purchase a new ticket.

Free school bus passes are issued by the school the student is attending and are subject to criteria set by the school.

Bus tickets can be purchased for fifty cents from the bus driver or from the interchanges at Darwin, Palmerston and Casuarina.

These tickets are valid for three hours and enable the student to transfer to other buses if necessary.

Weekly and term tickets are also available but must be purchased at the interchanges.

Drivers will accept the 2006 Term-4 school bus pass for the first two weeks of school to give the student time to arrange their new pass for 2007.

The website also has information on the "*code of conduct for school bus travel*".

It is important that parents and students are aware of this code as a serious breach could lead to a student being banned from travelling on school buses.

The Department has also announced that the new Cox Peninsula School Bus Interchange will be operational from the **third week** of the new term.

This interchange will accommodate school buses to and from Berry Springs, Darwin River, Acacia and Humpy Doo.

Parents should be confident their child is competent to travel alone on a bus. The bus driver is required to follow a set route and is not responsible to ensuring children get off at the correct bus stop.

For further information on school bus routes and timetables call: 8924 7666.