

Core Passenger Services Review

Statement of current issues and directions

Current Issues

The Review has distilled the issues facing core passenger services in Tasmania into 4 key points:

- (1) Service delivery does not match community needs.
- (2) Bus age is increasing.
- (3) There are many inequities in the existing fare structures.
- (4) Funding for services do not reflect the cost of providing services.

In the course of consultation, the following issues have also been consistently raised:

- employment in the bus industry is not an attractive option for young people;
- unclear and inconsistent guidelines that have not adequately addressed existing problems in the delivery of core passenger services; and
- the current contracting framework discourages change and innovation.

Directions

To address the identified issues, the Review will need to focus on solutions that can deliver:

- bus services and off bus infrastructure that better meet community needs;
- fares that are equitable;
- a more modern bus fleet; and
- an equitable contract payment structure that enhances business and employment opportunities.

Background to development of statements

The Review Team presented its summary of the key issues to be addressed to the Community Reference Group. The Review prepared the summary based on the stakeholder contributions at the Bridport Workshop and the subsequent Regional Seminars.

The statements of current issues and directions are intended to provide a high level summary of the range of issues raised with the Review. The summary attempts to reduce complex problems into a readily understandable form and to provide a convenient sketch of where the system currently is and where the community would like it to be. The summary is intended to inform and aid discussion between Government, operators and users.

The Community Reference Group considered that the issue of off bus infrastructure requires specific reference within the key issues. The difficulty faced by operators to attract and retain drivers was also seen by the Group as being of critical importance, and deserving of a separate reference within the description of required changes.

The above summary has been prepared to reflect the comments from the Community Reference Group on these points.