

Report 05.137
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Committee Passenger Transport Committee
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Transport Services Update

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the current key passenger transport service issues, both bus and rail.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Rail services

3.1 English Electric carriages

The minor refurbishment programme for the English Electric carriages started in early March. It will take about 18 months to complete with two carriages per month going through the programme.

3.2 Wairarapa carriages

The tender closing date had to be extended a week to the end of March as the requirements for the presentation of the tenders was changed to accommodate some concerns of Land Transport NZ. A probity auditor, Lyn Daken of Audit New Zealand, has also been appointed for the benefit of all parties involved.

We should be able to advise the Committee of the number of tenders received at the 7 April meeting.

3.3 Meeting with ONTRACK

We are establishing a working relationship with ONTRACK, the government agency that manages the rail track, the overhead wiring and station platforms and access. We met the ONTRACK Chief Executive and some of his staff in early March. Clearly they are keen to work with us in the specification of new

EMUs. They are also wanting to be involved in any review of the Johnsonville line.

They were able to explain why we had some operational delays due to the overhead wiring in late summer and what they had and were doing to rectify the problem. Essentially the issue was lack of regular maintenance by the previous network owner.

3.4 Recent Land Transport New Zealand decisions

3.4.1 Rolling stock ownership plan

After meetings with Land Transport NZ officials and their consultants ARUP we have submitted rolling stock ownership plan to the Land Transport NZ Chief Executive for approval. This ownership plan is necessary as it is a condition of the Land Transport NZ contribution to the purchase of the Wairarapa Carriages.

3.4.2 Urban rail operating contract

Land Transport NZ officials and their rail consultants, ARUP, have been working with us and Toll NZ to finalise the urban rail operating contract document. The final document went before the Land Transport NZ Board at their March meeting and was not approved but sent to a subcommittee for further consideration.

4. Bus services

4.1 Trolley buses

The Land Transport NZ Board's March meeting considered funding for the continuation of trolley bus service in Wellington City and the sole supply procurement procedure to achieve that. Details of the LTNZ Board decision will be provided to Committee members as soon as they are available.

Assuming we can negotiate a ten year contract with Stagecoach for the trolley bus services this will ensure that within the next few years that the current trolley bus fleet is replaced with low floor vehicles. This will then mean that most bus routes in Wellington City are fully accessible as far as the vehicles are concerned.

4.2 Review of Wellington City northern suburbs passenger transport services

The review of the Wellington City northern suburbs passenger transport services has been programmed for the 2005/06 year. However there has been considerable interest shown in this review and therefore it is suggested that it be started as soon as practical. To start the process there will be a workshop of the Councillors from the Wellington district and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Passenger Transport Committee. This workshop will tease out the scope of the project, the methodology and the timeframe. The Wairarapa review began with a similar workshop.

5. Recommendation

That the report be received.

Report prepared by:

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