



Report 06.708
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Committee Regional Land Transport
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Fuel Price Change Impacts on Public Transport Patronage

1. Purpose

To provide data showing the relationship between patronage results for Greater Wellington's Metlink public transport network and changes in fuel prices.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision 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. Comment

At its meeting in September the Committee requested officers report to the Committee on fuel price changes, and the impact of these changes on public transport patronage.

The graphs in **Attachment 1** illustrate the strong relationship between fuel price changes and patronage. The data covers the four year period to mid September 2006.

The first graph shows all trips and all public transport modes: bus, ferry and rail. The peak in passenger transport patronage in July 2006 almost mirrors the peak petrol price which occurred in August 2006. Over the past 3 months both petrol prices and patronage growth have declined.

The second graph shows the fuel price changes and peak period patronage. The trend is the same, but the changes are even more dramatic.

Total patronage by bus, train and ferry for the 2005/06 financial year was 35 million passenger trips, an increase of 2.6 million (or 8.1%) over the previous year. Peak time patronage increased by 11.6% compared with 4.6% increase for off peak. This represents a significant break from the trend in recent years of patronage growth being greatest at off peak times.

For the first time in recent years rail has increased its market share of passenger trips, up from 31.9% to 32.1%. Rail continues to account for nearly two thirds of all passenger kilometres travelled in the region (61%).

4. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Relationship between fuel price change and patronage