



COMMUNITY BUS PROVISION

ADDENDUM 5 TO COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION 12th JUNE 2007

Issue:

1. Council referred the application to the Director of Public Transport in the fortnight immediately preceding the Planning Panel hearing. The lateness of this referral was as a result of an earlier over-sight and Council apologies to the Panel for this.
2. As a result of the conditions detailed in the DoI/ Director of Public Transport response, the submitters have sought clarification on buses, and particularly community buses, operating in Maryborough.

Comment:

3. There are four types of bus services operating in Maryborough and it should be noted from the outset that **none** are operated by the Department of Infrastructure.

4. VLine

- There are two VLine services - one linking to Ballarat, the other to the Castlemaine railway stations.
- Both services can be used for commuter purposes – by residents in the towns of Clunes, Talbot, Carisbrook, Newstead and Guildford.
- The only bus stop for both services is in Clarendon Street, between the Court House Hotel and the newly constructed Police Station.

5. School Buses

- In the main, generally provide a service to the hinterland and deliver students to the Maryborough Education Centre, St Augustine's Primary and Highview College.
 - Another service's destination is the Ballarat private school cluster.
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6. Community Bus – Existing

- There are three routes within Maryborough, all provided by Council, free of charge on Thursday only.
- Two other services are variable and on call and service Dunolly and Carisbrook – again only on Thursdays.
- These are provided by Council as a community service to the town residents.
- NB These buses are 12 seaters and a totally volunteer service.

7. Community Buses – New

- Council has been provided with State Government funding for two additional 12-seater buses.
- The provision of these buses was predicated on two main aims:
 - i. primary intent was to provide a linear service linking the Maryborough East community with the new Maryborough Education Centre.

This community is the most socio-economic disadvantaged sector of the community and with the development of the Maryborough Education Centre is now also locational disadvantaged.
 - ii. Secondary intent was to build on this effectively linear service and circulate throughout the township (Mirroring the PwC blue bus in Melbourne).
- Council is in the middle of determining:
 - i. Ways in which to secure volunteer drivers;
 - ii. Fee-for-service options;
 - iii. Timetabling and routes, and
 - iv. On-going coverage of recurrent costs and plant replacement.

8. Conclusion:

- Given the lack of DoI public transport and the size and nature of Council's existing and proposed community bus services (12 seaters), Council would be very comfortable with a set-down area on Tuaggra Street, in front of the subject site and a complementary set-down area on Tuaggra Street, most likely outside the existing video store / petrol station site area.