

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD FRIDAY  
31 OCTOBER 2008**

**File No: PUBLIC TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP**

**Venue:**

Coolamon Cultural Centre

**Time:**

10:00am

**Present:**

Len Greer (Chair), Bill McKennariey (Blind Citizens Australia), Terry O'Toole (Pottsville Community Association), John Zawadzki (Tweed Shire Council), Linda Lomman (Northern Suburbs Social Development Council), Alan Cavanagh (Surfside Buslines), Ben Riley (Ministry of Transport), Mr Rob Spragg (Tweed Shire Council), Judith Finch (Minutes Secretary Tweed Shire Council), Liz Patterson (North Coast Area Health Service).

**Apologies:**

John Parsons (Parsons Bus Service), Don Stubbs (Tweed Taxis), Phil Barron (Tweed Ballina Byron Community Transport), Doug Weatherley (Community Representative), Rosemary Beard (Veterans Affairs).

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Moved: Alan Cavanagh

Seconded: Bill McKennariey

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Public Transport Working Group meeting held Friday 29 August 2008 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Liz Patterson, North Coast Area Health Service, to the meeting as an observer.

**Business Arising:**

**From Meeting Held 27/6/08 and 29/8/08**

**2. Bus Shelter Maintenance Update**

**DW1820313**

The item from 29 August 2008 is reproduced below:-

*"Alan Cavanagh advised that he has produced map with the yellow lines showing urban services and the pink lines being an extension of the normal urban service with crosses showing existing bus stops. There is also a list of existing bus stops and a list of where they would like new ones located.*

*Discussion took place on disabled access at bus stops. John Zawadzki advised that each bus stop has to be assessed on its merit.*

*The Chairman queried what was happening with the organisation of a bus tour to view bus stops/shelters for the condition of existing stops and accessibility. Alan Cavanagh advised that he would raise this request of a volunteer driver with Surfside management to view existing bus stops. Mr McKennariey advised that QDN have just completed a statewide audit of bus stops in line with Australian Standards. The group was advised that Council currently does not have a standard for bus stops. Mr McKennariey advised that the Disability Access Committee has previously completed assessments of bus stops.*

*John Zawadzki advised that an internal meeting is being organised for the assessment of bus stops.*

*Any feedback for Flametree Estate Shops was queried. John Zawadzki undertook to report to the next meeting.*

*Any feedback for funding for litter bins was queried. John Zawadzki undertook to report to the next meeting.*

*Action: That John Zawadzki report to the next PTWG meeting in relation to the provision of litter bins at major CBD bus shelter sheds, where a need is indicated."*

**ACTION: That John Zawadzki follow up on the possibility of a bus tour to view stops and shelters for accessibility and condition with John Parsons.**

John Zawadzki advised that in relation to Flametree Shops, there is nowhere to position a bus stop and shelter due to the location of the traffic signals on Leisure Drive, driveways and loading dock locations.

**Moved:** Len Greer

**Seconded:** Terry O'Toole

**RESOLVED** that Alan Cavanagh and John Zawadzki determine the best location for a bus stop following the changes made by Surfside Buslines to the route.

*Linda Lomman arrived at 10:13am*

John Zawadzki advised that the bus stops assessment for 'J Pole' locations is still being attended to.

John Zawadzki advised that litter bin provision at major shopping centres is still being assessed and that precise locations are needed.

Rob Spragg congratulated John on the new bins that have been installed at Sunnyside Shopping Centre.

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**From Meeting Held 29/8/08:**

**3. Review of Rural and Regional Bus Fares**

**DW1880908**

*"Linda Lomman advised that IPART set this pricing which is currently under review and there is an opportunity to put in submissions.*

*Action: That Linda discuss this with Rob Spragg to formulate a letter in the terms of Linda Lomman's email dated 7 August 2008 (DW 1880908)."*

Linda advised that she had forwarded a submission based on NSW Council of Social Services relating to the high cost of fares.

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**From Meeting Held 29/8/08:**

**7. Sunnyside Bus Stop**

*"John Parsons again raised the problems with the fence at the Sunnyside bus stop. John Zawadzki advised that movement of the fence may raise liability issues. Missing panels was also an issue of concern.*

*This group considers that something needs to be done about the Knox Park Bus Shelter to allow coaches to open their under floor bins and stop buses scraping their body work when moving out."*

John Zawadzki advised that a negotiated agreement had been achieved with removal of half of the fence.

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**Correspondence Inwards:**

**1.1 Bus Shelter**

**DW1920297**

The bus stop at Tweed City Shopping Centre has graffiti and broken panels and rubbish at the back of the shelter. See further information under Item 3.

**1.2 Taxis**

**DW1920297**

The taxis are located at the back of the bus stop at the rear of the Tweed City Shopping Centre. A cabbie has reported bus damage as the buses try to get around the cabs and the cabs have to move to let the buses in. See further information under Item 3.

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**Correspondence Outwards:**

Nil.

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**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**1. Funding Application for Additional Public Transport and Community Bus Service Trial**

Rob Spragg advised that the Tyalgum / Murwillumbah service has been submitted for MOT funding of \$15,000 to provide an improved service and promotion between Murwillumbah and Tyalgum. Ben advised that this is in the process of being determined. This was for an additional Tuesday bus and school holiday Saturday bus.

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**2a) Support for IRTP from SEQ of Mayors**

**DW1920262**

Linda advised that this was in response to a discussion held last meeting regarding issues with cross border transport. This was to advise that there is a process in place which may have an outcome for the group.

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## **2b) Casino - Murwillumbah Rail Line Extension**

John Zawadzki advised that a report was provided to Council on 30 October 2008 regarding the Murwillumbah Rail line. The report recommended that Council responds to Byron Shire in support of a rail line and with an ongoing alliance and writes to Byron Shire in support of their proposal.

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## **3. Bus Shelter Maintenance Update**

Mr Greer advised that a bus shelter at Pottsville had been cleaned by him at the weekend and he had been advised that the bus shelter maintenance grant has already been spent. In Cabarita the bus stops need maintenance and noted Rosemary Beard's email regarding the Minjungbal Drive shelter and within Tweed City.

Mr Cavanagh advised that he had received a letter from Tweed City regarding the bus stop at the rear and the problem with no telephone or shelter. Mr Cavanagh advised that this is private property and Surfside are not able to change the public telephone location. He spoke to Centre Management who are aware that there is no public telephone, and that there was a facility at the far end of Tweed City which is currently being reactivated. He acknowledged the problem with the taxis and large buses. Mr Cavanagh suggested that the taxis should move to the front of Tweed City, parallel with Minjungbal Drive and the Centre Manager advised he would instigate this process.

Mr Cavanagh advised that they would be happy to remove the stop from behind Tweed City to alleviate the issue with taxis.

Mr McKennariey suggested that people should not have to walk long distances to catch public transport.

Linda suggested that the 3 parties meet (Tweed City, Taxis and Surfside Buslines) to come to an agreement. John Zawadzki advised that he could assist in such a meeting, if required. There is also the possibility that funding could be applied for an upgrade to bus services.

Mr O'Toole advised that this group is insisting that bus services should always be available within shopping centres and that this should be designed correctly at the beginning of the development approval process. Mr O'Toole advised that the group would oppose Surfside Buslines removing the service from the rear of Tweed City.

Mr Cavanagh advised that, in general, Surfside Buslines will not enter private property (such as a shopping centre) as part of a bus route.

It was noted that there is a taxi phone near the Westpac exit at Tweed City.

**ACTION BY ALAN CAVANAGH: That a meeting be held between Tweed City Centre Management, all taxi companies using Tweed City and Surfside Buslines to discuss best options between the taxi companies and Surfside Buslines for public transport.**

The issue of graffiti in bus shelters was discussed and Mr Greer advised that the current method of cleaning them leaves a cloudy mark on the clear perspex of the graffiti. John Zawadzki advised that the \$200,000 from the Federal Government will be used for street lighting at bus shelters for security, and for removal of clear panels to be replaced with louvre mesh panels. This will be attended to by a rolling program of works.

Mr Greer asked about grants for the new budget for maintenance of bus shelters. John Zawadzki advised of the possible tender for a company to maintain all bus shelters for the rights to advertise in them. There are 165 bus shelters in the Shire of which 50 may be advertisable with the other 115 being maintained also.

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#### 4. Transport Needs for Older People in Tweed

DW1880943

"This item was deferred from meeting held 29 August 2008 and is reproduced below:-

*Linda discussed this item on behalf of Rosemary Beard requesting the merits of a needs identification analysis targeting different areas and different needs for older people and that the Ministry of Transport be approached for funding.*

*The group noted that Rosemary Beard and Ben Riley need to handle this. This could be expanded to include particular target groups, such as young persons. Linda advised that the Youth Development Officer, Margaret Strong is able to come to the October 2008 meeting.*

*Mr Cavanagh stated that Surfside was looking at requesting a subsidy from TSC for community transport at retirement villages.*

*Moved: Len Greer*

*Seconded: Linda Lomman*

*RESOLVED that funding for transport needs for older people from the Ministry of Transport be added to the Outstanding Matters Report.*

As Rosemary Beard was not in attendance John advised the group of Rosemary's email. Decided that this email be deferred for Rosemary's attendance.

**ACTION that this item be deferred to the next meeting.**

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## **5. Development Applications**

### **a) Stage 1 Cobaki Lakes**

This is a Stage 3A application which means that this is approved by the State Government.

The Concept Plan was discussed. Social impact assessment to include public transport accessibility, active transport and connectivity/walkability with particular emphasis on access to recreation including the beach.

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### **b) Kings Forest Estate**

This is a Stage 3A application which means that this is approved by the State Government.

Social impact assessment to include public transport accessibility, active transport and connectivity/walkability with particular emphasis on access to recreation including the beach.

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### **c) Seaside City Estate**

John advised that this was at 'construction certificate' stage and is for the group's information, with all planning issues being dealt with previously. This was noted by the group and it is recommended that reference be made to crime prevention through environmental design guidelines in relation to house and street design.

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### **d) Casuarina Town Centre**

This is a Stage 3A application which means that this is approved by the State Government.

Comments are:-

1. Surrounding streets are not wide enough to cater for buses.
2. Bus lay-bys required on both sides of Casuarina Way.
3. Mobility Plan is required which reduces reliance on the motor vehicles.

4. Undesirable layout increases vehicle trips for residents greater than 400m from retail shopping centre.

Rob Spragg advised that comments had already been given by Community & Cultural Services advising of the 400m rule.

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## 6. PTWG Performance Review

John advised that at the last meeting it was noted that the group was generally not happy with its performance.

John asked each member to give their thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of the group over the last 12 months and the following table was formulated:-

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Focussing on public transport as a separate issue	Do not have as much impact as we would like - like 'going nowhere'
	No guaranteed outcomes
Endeavours to improve public transport accessibility and services to the general community not just aged and disabled	Communication between transport providers, Council and other authorities is generally poor
Good that there is a group in existence	Focus on public transport as in buses. This should be expanded to the broader public transport as in active transport
Good committee in terms of pointing out what the community needs in terms of public transport	Difficult to get people out of their cars and to use public transport - and reasons are not the same in regional areas
	Cost of public transport in regional areas is greater
	Do not get response from various govt departments that we would like
Networking capabilities of the members within group is very important and good	Taxi representative not present
Focus on transport disadvantaged is good	Make sure good inclusion of all transport stakeholders as members - membership is not 'broad enough'
Broad scope of expertise amongst members	Not wide enough community representation eg youth, aboriginal community - should be all inclusive
Provides a forum to expand ideas regarding public transport	Breakdown in progressing what is talked about between meetings (2 monthly meetings)

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Good mix of persons within the group - bus operators, special interest groups and Council employees	Blockage of what is said through the corridors of power to get any feedback - this could be an inherent problem. Need more reaction from Council
	Within Council and with other government departments how can this committee be effective as there is no Councillor representative
	Need to engage more with users of public transport, not the suppliers of public transport
	We need to improve the first point of contact i.e. bus shelters
	Can't change history. We look at the 'blunders' made in planning layouts etc. Community deals with these daily and Committee with them bi monthly
Provides an opportunity for feedback to the community	Don't really understand the limits that we have as far as things that we can influence within Council processes. This could be terms of inter-relationships. Can we define what we can act on as the Committee's influential area. This may remove the frustrations that we feel
This group does sit within Council and has community engineering, planning representation. Also having reps from transport	Need review of taxi reps.
Regional processes have had positive outcomes	We do get bogged down on a smaller range of issues stopping the bigger issues being handled
The group provides a link with other regional groups and issues	Need to identify projects to work on for good outcomes for the community
	Does not have any power or much influence Need to keep on pushing and pushing until something gets done

John Zawadzki requested an overall performance score out of 10 for the group over the past 12 months from each member. The average score was 3.9 out of 10 (based on 8 scores). Obviously the performance of the group needs improvement.

Liz Patterson asked for a list of representatives of the group (which was provided at the meeting) and an induction kit was handed to Liz.

Ben asked 'where to from here'? Mr McKennariey stated that communication between all parties and the potential for not having influence to make changes seems to be the biggest issues identified above. How can these be addressed in the future?

John Zawadzki advised that he would place the key strengths and weaknesses in the Minutes with them being a main agenda item for the next meeting.

The Strengths and Weaknesses item to be listed first on the Agenda for the next meeting, with a view to providing actions for improvement. It was decided that we invite youth, aboriginal, aged representative and transport disadvantaged target groups to the next meeting.

**ACTION: That the Strengths and Weaknesses item be listed in first position on the Agenda for the December 2008 meeting.**

Mr McKennariey asked why at least one Councillor has not been appointed to the Committee or at least a representative nominated by the Councillor to attend. The group welcomes the attendance of an elected member.

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## **7. Sub Working Group Meeting Update - 26 September 2008**

This meeting was not held nor planned for in November.

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## 8. Outstanding Matters Report

Meeting Date	Title	Action	Action Officer	Comments /Completed
24/08/2007	Council's Transport Policies & Procedures	Commence Network Plan	Rob Spragg	Ongoing - Rob advised he has been working on this and that this will be circulated for the next meeting
29/8/2008	Gold Coast/Tweed Transport	Liaison between Gold Coast City Council and Tweed on transportation	John Zawadzki	Ongoing
29/8/2008	Promotion & Possible Expansion of Tyalgum	Rob Spragg to meet with Barry Singh and Ben Riley to discuss possible funding for promotion	Rob Spragg	Ongoing
29/8/2008	Transport Needs for Older People in Tweed	Funding for transport needs for older people from the Ministry of Transport	Rosemary Beard and Ben Riley	Ongoing

Rob Spragg advised that he would circulate a 'brief' for the Network Plan to members for comment.

**ACTION: That Rob Spragg circulate a 'brief' for the Network Plan to members for comment.**

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## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **9. Chair Resignation**

Mr Len Greer advised that he is standing down as Chairperson. Mr McKennarley stated that a rotating chair is a possibility for future meetings. This is to be discussed at the next Public Transport Working Group meeting in December.

**ACTION: That the matter of Chair be listed on the Agenda for the December 2008 meeting.**

*Linda Lomman left at 12:04pm*

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### **10. Murwilumbah to Pottsville Bus Service**

Mr Greer advised that Parsons have just started a daily bus service (one trip per day) from Pottsville to Murwillumbah.

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#### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Public Transport Working Sub Group is scheduled for 28 November 2008 but may not need to be held.

The next meeting of the Public Transport Working Group will be held 12 December 2008.

Decided that the 19 December meeting be brought forward to 12 December 2008.

The meeting closed at 12:15pm.

#### **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

Nil.

#### **DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Nil.

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