



Ref – F20/1789, D20/27288
RAF:SC

5 August 2020

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
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The Convener,

Re: IPART Review of Rural and Regional Bus Fares – 2021-25

Council supports the review and endorses the following aims of the review outlined in the Issues Paper July 2020.

1. Ensure fares are affordable for people with limited transport options.
2. Maximise the benefits of public transport use to the community.
3. Allow bus companies to recover the efficient costs of providing rural and regional bus services
4. Promote the efficient delivery of transport services
5. Facilitate innovation in transport services.

Each of the above aims align with Councils Community Strategic Plan especially with respect to the following as they relate to public transport;

OUR COMMUNITY'S VISION

We live in a community that provides opportunity to all, to prosper in an environment that supports well-being, **connectedness** and access to resources the community wants and needs.

OUR STRATEGIES

Plan for and provide infrastructure that encourages and allows for active lifestyles (HS-01)

OUR GOALS

We support our community and the many groups within it through partnerships and quality accessible services

We provide support and assistance for business development and expansion.

Being able to afford the basics that improves our lives



Current Bus Services

Current bus services are provided by Busways and Cavanagh's Bus & Coach Pty Ltd. Daily services are provided within and between the main town centres of Kempsey, South West Rocks, Crescent Head, Stuarts Point and Frederickton, Services are limited to day light hours generally in the range 8.00am to 6.00pm. Both bus companies run school services in accordance with Transport for NSW arrangements. Council assists the running of bus services as part of its Road Authority responsibilities through the provision of traffic management and bus route access facilities.

Fares

Council has no formal position with respect to existing fares. Bus fares is not part of Councils core business, however, would strongly support any initiatives that ensures equity and affordability for all user groups, especially low-income groups, persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged persons. Council also supports continued subsidisation of bus fares via health cards and pension cards.

Transport Initiatives

Council is committed to sustainability and more efficient use of resources. Use of public transport (buses) as an alternative mode of transport aligns well with Councils vision for more sustainable use of resources and energy savings. NSW Government incentives to provide a wider range of bus services and types (eg: on demand services and more destination focussed) is strongly supported.

Further information regarding Council's submission may be obtained from Investigations Engineer, Cliff Toms cliff.toms@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Yours Faithfully



Robert Fish
Director Operations and Planning

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