

MINISTER'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

REGIONAL PASSENGER TRANSPORT

March 2003

Issues

- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of State and Local Government in regard to the provision of regional passenger transport services.
- Improved communications by the Passenger Transport Board (PTB).
- Improved coordination of State Government policy, service provision and funding.

Progress to date

- The Local Government Association (LGA) has established an LGA Regional Passenger Transport Liaison Group. The establishment of this group was a key action arising from an LGA Regional Passenger Transport Workshop held in October 2002 and attended by over 31 Country Councils. The LGA State Executive recently endorsed the membership of a nine person Group including representatives from regional LGA's, Provincial Cities Association and individual country councils. The term of membership is 2 years and Cr John Legoe, LGA Vice President will Chair the Group.

Proposed terms of reference for the LGA group are:

- A forum for Local Government liaison with State Government agencies involved in the provision or administration of passenger transport
- Information and advice to the LGA on passenger transport policy issues affecting Local Government
- A focus for consultation with Councils on passenger transport
- A forum for generating and supporting new initiatives and policy/research proposals

The LGA President met with the Minister for Transport in early January 2003 and advised the Minister that the LGA would be forming an LGA Regional Passenger Liaison Group. The LGA has now written to the Minister informing him of the membership of the LGA Group and inviting a formal response from the Minister regarding a joint State/Local Group. It is envisaged that a joint group would comprise 3-4 members of the LGA Group and a nominee from the relevant State agencies involved. Those agencies include the Department of Human Services, the Passenger Transport Board and the Department of Education and Children's Services.

Recommendation

- That the Forum supports the establishment of a joint State/Local Passenger Transport Group and receives reports on the progress made by such a group on an "as needs" basis.