

Update from DPTI

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Review of Regional Transport Services

Bus SA Conference
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Government of South Australia
Department of Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure

Review Scope

- In February 2017 DPTI engaged ArcBlue to undertake a review of South Australian Regional Bus Contracts. The scope of the review was to:
- Review the current contract models and recommend a new model for existing Area Contracts and Integrated Transport Service Contracts;
- Review current regional tender processes to increase competition within the market;
- Identify potential benefits/improvements from this review that can be embedded into future regional contract models.

Guiding Principles

- Guiding principles were to facilitate the establishment of a network of services that deliver:
 - Community and Customer Focused Services
 - Value for Money
 - Integration, Innovation and Delivering Mobility
 - Competition
 - Reduction of Red Tape
- The review included analysis of:
 - Funding arrangements
 - Current contractual frameworks
 - Procurement of the existing 32 contracts (7 Provincial City Contracts, 14 Integrated Transport Service Contracts and 11 Area Contracts).
- Information was gathered through desktop research and direct engagement with operators and industry stakeholders.

Key Issues

- Duplication of resources and funding across various government and non-government agencies;
- Varying and unstable funding arrangements creating uncertainty regarding long term sustainability;
- Contract structures where operator's funding relies on fare revenue are vulnerable to changes in patronage levels and does not encourage innovation or large investments in fleet upgrades.
- Due to contract structures and revenue models, any service changes are based on cost recovery that increase patronage but not necessarily provide a broader community benefit;

Review Recommendations

- To address the issues identified the Review made 23 recommendations covering areas of:
 - Funding
 - Planning and Policy
 - Procurement
 - Contract Methodology
 - Contract Management

Next Steps

- DPTI developing an Action Plan that includes key issues such as:

Action Item

Develop a Regional Access Framework to guide future planning, delivery and funding strategies

Based on the Regional Access Framework, review existing regional services, identify gaps and develop local transport plans for priority areas

Review procurement strategies and processes

Review of contracting and funding models

- The Action Plan will also consider the proposed Regional Access Committees and existing Community Passenger Networks and how these may contribute to a broader regional access network.

Future of Passenger Transport in SA

- Proposals being developed to redesign of Adelaide's Bus Network to enhance improved and expanded train and tram networks and to increase frequency and service coverage
- Operation Moving Traffic – ongoing strategy to improve the efficiency, reliability and safety of the transport network. Initiatives include:
 - Launch of *AddInsight* app
 - Bus Priority (at traffic signals and additional Bus Lanes)
 - Real Time Travel Signs
 - Launch of road works portal to ensure better planning and provision of information about road works

Future of Passenger Transport in SA

New Technologies

- The Government is committed to innovation and trialling new technologies which could also provide opportunities for passenger transport to provide “first mile, last mile” services.
- To progress this the government established a \$10m Future Mobility Lab Fund to promote the development and acceptance of autonomous and connected vehicles and other future mobility technologies. Three applications for this funding have been successful and awarded and include:
 - a driverless shuttle within Adelaide Airport to replace the current diesel shuttle buses
 - a driverless shuttle service operated by Flinders University at Tonsley to provide a last mile service to and from the campus and the train station, and
 - a driverless cargo service within Tonsley operated by RDM Group (a UK company).

Future of Passenger Transport in SA Bus Australia Network Outcomes

- Key issues highlighted by NTC Bus Industry Advisory Group include:
 - Need for clearer transport and social outcomes in contracts
 - Improving mobility for transport disadvantaged while also supporting mass transit
 - Impact of automated vehicles and ride-sharing and opportunities for public transport as first and last mile trips
 - More flexible contracts to encourage innovation
- Many of the issues raised will be addressed as part of current review of Regional Contracts and Regional Access Framework and commitment to progressing trials of new technologies, eg driverless vehicles