

Hi

I would like to lodge a submission to the above enquiry.

I live in Busselton in the south west of WA, the community here has an urban population of some 20,000 and recently the public transport by way of local buses was introduced.

The ongoing problem facing many rural/regional communities is the numbers game, in essence the population base is not enough to provide for a 10 minute bus service around town but the reality is that you need a 10 min bus service between the hours of 6am-6pm for it to be truly convenient to patrons and thereby usable.

The chicken and egg scenario is clearly apparent people won't use public transport until it is frequent, reliable and affordable. Those providing public transport services will only provide services that are profitable.

It is time that those providing public transport become more accountable and begin to provide services that meet the above criteria, I am aware that this would not be terribly cost effective and most likely lead to reduced profits if any at all but surely this is a cost that we as a community must pay, people in my community are so car centric that most are not even aware that there is a bus service operating in town.

Rural towns need to be linked to each other by regular public transport as well and yet again this service needs to be regular enough so that is more user friendly. For those towns that are connected it is a service which when provided is often underutilised or maybe it is just time to reconsider the size of the buses, whilst large buses must be more efficient to run when fully loaded when only moving a maximum of 10 people per time maybe minibuses may be more appropriate.

Public transport in this part of Australia is terrible and not user friendly at all.

regards

Pete Malavisi