

15. BUS ACCESS – PAPANUI TO QEII POOL

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Corporate Plan Output: Advocacy	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board on the current bus access from Papanui to QEII Pool as requested by Board members at the 6 March Board meeting.

This information was requested from the Passenger Services Planner at Environment Canterbury, Matthew Noon. Matthew has indicated that he is willing to attend any Board meetings if required. The following information was provided.

CURRENT ACCESS

Currently there is no direct access from Papanui to QEII and New Brighton.

For passengers wishing to travel from Papanui to New Brighton they can catch the Orbiter (every 10 minutes) to the Palms and transfer to the 60 New Brighton (every 15 minutes).

In November 2000, Environment Canterbury trialed a direct service from The Palms to New Brighton via QEII. This service ran for six months when it was discontinued due to a lack of patronage. However, passengers can transfer from the Orbiter to the 43 Burwood service which goes past QEII.

FUTURE ACCESS

Prior to their service contracts expiring, Environment Canterbury conduct an extensive consultation process to ensure that their services are meeting the needs of the community.

When the services in the North East were reviewed in 1999 and 2000, very little demand was shown for a direct service from the New Brighton/ Burwood area to Papanui.

It must be recognised, that as a bus service is provided and not a taxi service, it is extremely difficult to provide direct connections to all destinations.

Environment Canterbury is committed however, to enabling people to access all the attractions in the city through the development of a network of high frequency services and seamless transferring. This can be seen through the current ticketing proposals regarding an all day ticket that allows unlimited transfers and the development of the high frequency services.

With their route planning they are also focused on ensuring that the community can access their local facilities. For example, through the Orbiter a direct service is provided from Papanui to Jellie Park.

The services in the North West will be reviewed next year and at that time all aspects of the routes, frequency and coverage will be assessed.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.