

14. DRAFT CANTERBURY REGIONAL PASSENGER TRANSPORT PLAN 2006

The Board **resolved** to submit the following to Environment Canterbury regarding its draft Canterbury Regional Passenger Transport Plan for 2006:

The Board supports the five policy areas containing 43 policies in the draft plan, covering:

1. Network of services
2. Service performance standards
3. Funding
4. Fares
5. Providers of services and infrastructure.

Policy area 2 relates to super low floor (SLF) buses. These are buses without steps at the doors so that elderly, disabled and wheelchair users are able to board easily. The proposed policy says that all trips in the off-peak should be made with SLF buses, but that peak trips only need to be made with SLF's at the off peak frequency. This could lead to wheelchair users for example being left behind in the peak.

Policy area 3 (funding) seeks a change to the current cost recovery policy of 40-60% of total system costs, to a minimum of 50% of total costs. The intent of this policy is to limit the extent to which government contributions (from taxpayers) and regional rates (from ratepayers) subsidise the costs of people choosing to travel by metro.

The Board encourages Environment Canterbury to advocate strongly to central government for a greater contribution to public passenger transport services (to minimise fare rises and rate increases) given the additional taxes collected as a result of fuel price rises.

Policy area 4 (fares) seeks to remove the entitlement to discounted fares for the congenital and intellectually disabled. The advantage of this is that it allows across the board lower fares to be maintained for a greater number of people.