

Getting Where You Need To Go

What we've heard

Everyone needs to be able to get around New Norfolk, the Valley and beyond

Everyone needs to be able to get to the shops, visit the doctor, or see friends. But even getting around New Norfolk is hard for some people. Nearly a third of locals live in towns that don't have bus services. And it's complicated to get to places like Bridgewater.

Buses won't be the only answer

Many people live far from bus services, or need to get places where there isn't a bus. They may only need transport for a little while. Or they may be too sick to take the bus.

Children need to get to learning and young people to work

It can be hard for parents with young children to get a lift to playgroups or LIL when car seats and harnesses are needed. A lot of jobs that young people do in agriculture or hospitality are a long way from bus routes and have early or late shifts.

It's hard to get a license

If a family doesn't own a car or if the car is gone most of the day because a family member takes it to work, it can make it hard for people on L plates to drive the number of hours needed to get their P plates.

Driving is expensive

Cars are dear to buy, register, operate, and repair.

Buses should be cheaper and more comfortable to use

Bus services in the Derwent Valley cost more than those in Hobart for the same distance, and it costs more to travel across the river than to travel on one side of the river only. Many stops don't have shelters.

Make it safer for walking, bicycles and mobility scooters

Walking and cycling are cheap and good for you, and mobility scooters can give independence to people who are no longer driving. But they depend on footpaths and cycle ways for safety, for both walkers, cyclists and drivers.

Transport should be everyone's business

Health services, employers, education and training services, and other government services can forget that not everyone has access to a private car when making appointments or setting up service schedules.

Transport can connect us

People often think of transport as something that just benefits the people using it. But transport brings people together and supports our whole community.

A TasCOSS community consultation

TasCOSS (Tasmanian Council of Social Service) works to challenge and change the systems, behaviours and attitudes that create poverty, inequality and exclusion in our State.



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Solutions

Action 1

More direct buses between New Norfolk and Bridgewater

There's only one direct bus a day between New Norfolk and Bridgewater; otherwise, a trip takes up to an hour, with a change to Metro in Granton.

Action 2

Let people pay their registration in smaller amounts

Car registration payments represent large lump sums. Being able to have monthly or quarterly payments would be easier for people on low incomes.

Action 3

Bring bus fares down

Bus services in the Derwent Valley cost more than those in Hobart for the same distance, and there's a surcharge for crossing the river between New Norfolk and Fairview. Government can increase subsidies for private bus owners.

Action 4

A driver licence by the end of Year 12

Giving everyone the chance to leave New Norfolk High School with a driver's licence would not only help young people to get around easier, it would also be a great way to get students to stay in school.

Action 5

Shuttle buses between Maydena and New Norfolk

There are no buses between New Norfolk and Maydena. A shuttle bus could work for locals getting to New Norfolk. It could help people get to jobs and may be used by tourists as well.

Action 6

More driver mentors and community transport drivers

If more people volunteered as driver mentors or community transport drivers, the Derwent Valley Community House could help more people get their licences and community transport services could help more people who don't drive.

Action 7

Helping people use buses

Using buses can be hard. Having someone to show you the ropes can make things easier. Volunteer Transport Champions have done this elsewhere, to good reviews.

Action 8

Encourage carpooling

Carpooling can help people get around, but it's hard to share a lift with someone you don't know. Places like Ptunarra, the Derwent Valley Community House, or local schools could help bring people together to share rides, using apps or websites.

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Action 9

Building and improving footpaths, cycleways and bus shelters

Wide footpaths that have ramps for bikes, prams and mobility scooters to get on and off make it easier for many people in New Norfolk to get around. Cycleways make it safer for children to ride their bikes to school or for fun. Bus shelters make it nicer to wait for the bus in bad weather.

Action 10

Ask “How are you getting here and home?”

Most of us take private transport for granted. If people working in services have an idea of what transport options are available locally and remember to ask people “*How are you getting here and how are you getting home?*” they could then help people work out how to get to and from their appointments.

Action 11

Start up a New Norfolk Shopper Shuttle Bus

It’s not easy to catch a bus when you have heavy things to carry. A shuttle service would help people who don’t have a car and can’t afford a taxi do the weekly shopping.

Action 12

Feeder services to main bus routes

Many people can’t easily walk to a main bus route. Feeder services could pick people up in places like Lachlan, Molesworth, or the Central Highlands, and get them to bus stops along the main route.

Action 13

A children’s bus to help families get to learning

A shuttle bus with car seats and harnesses could carry children and parents get to Launching Into Learning, playgrounds, appointments and child care.

Action 14

Shuttle buses to employers in the Valley

There are a lot of seasonal jobs in hospitality, horticulture and agriculture in the valley. But these are not on bus routes and have work hours outside 9am-5pm. Shuttle buses could travel through several pick-up points to get people to and from work around the valley through the peak season.

Action 15

After-hours transport from Hobart to New Norfolk

There are jobs available in Hobart that people without cars may not be able to take because they do not fit with a bus schedule. A shuttle bus or vanpool could pick people up and drop people off along a flexible route.

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Transport in the Derwent Valley: Tell Us What Would Work For You!

The Derwent Valley is a beautiful place with much to offer both locals and visitors. But many locals say it is sometimes hard to get to places like jobs, training, shopping and social outings--especially if you don't have a car.

TasCOSS has been talking to people to get their ideas on how to make it easier to get to where you need to go in the Derwent Valley.

Over the past six months we have gathered thoughts and ideas from some 250 locals. A smaller group of locals has been working hard to sort these ideas and find solutions that will work for the Derwent Valley community. These ideas and solutions will be given to the Premier as part of a plan for improving transport in the Derwent Valley.

What do we need from you?

With the Transport Action Team, we've drawn up a list of 15 ideas. Tell us which of these would work for you by visiting our survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8NTPMCN>

We would love you to hear from you about why these solutions would or would not work. Call or write to us at 6231-0755 or wynne@tascoss.org.au.

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