

To whom it may concern:

I have lived in the town of Yarram, (3971) for over twenty years, at which time public transport was very limited, with one bus a day going to Melbourne and back, but virtually nothing else! I became a Shire Councillor between 2000 and 2003 and during that time I was successful in arranging, with the aid of the State Government, a new bus service from Yarram to Traralgon and back, again just the one service a day. Since then, the direct bus service to Melbourne has increased to several a day, and the same applies to the smaller service transporting residents to Traralgon. Both these services have proved invaluable, with the Traralgon one in particular connecting with trains to the city, which run on an hourly basis. Both these services are quite well used today, giving access of Yarram residents to all the facilities available in Melbourne *and, importantly*, to the medical centre at Latrobe for specialist help, which is generally not available in Yarram.

As I state above these two services have gone a long way to ease the isolation of our town, but there is one very important link which still needs to be filled - that is a daily service to and from our Shire town, Sale. Most important facilities of the Shire are situated in Sale, such as the Wellington Shire main offices, the Sale Hospital which provides an alternative medical service to Latrobe, the heated swimming pool, used for sometimes urgent remedial purposes, the theatre, which was built to provide entertainment throughout the Shire, and the art gallery. But only the people in Yarram who have their own transport can attend any of these facilities, or by taxi, (expensive!), or by getting a friend to help or by using the Red Cross car, which is sometimes booked up for several months ahead! I would suggest that such a bus service, if it is initiated, should on arrival in Sale, do a circuit of the town, stopping at the pool, the hospital and the shopping centre, it could then be parked for an hour or hour and a half before repeating the circuit, prior to its trip back to Yarram.

It is my contention therefore that Yarram really does need this final link, in the chain to provide adequate facilities, especially for those who are elderly, infirm or otherwise unable to arrange for their own transport to the town. Some permanent form of information regarding transport timings and services would be helpful too, the only information available at present being on the bus stop itself and on the internet, as far as I am aware.

Yours truly

Brian Lee

Yarram

Victoria