



Read the full TasBus policy at  
[www.tasbus.com.au](http://www.tasbus.com.au)

We ignore medium to long term passenger transport planning at our peril. Efficient and effective passenger transport is essential to any community.

In Tasmania, buses represent the model that best serves a relatively small state with a dispersed population. The role of buses will increase as the years go by.

TasBus is committed to bringing together all the elements in the debate to build a dynamic strategy for a flexible, efficient passenger transport network that will serve all Tasmanians, wherever they live, in the decades ahead.

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# BUSES: Essential Transport for Tasmania's Future



This policy document has been produced by the Tasmanian Bus Association (Tasbus) to help commuters and policy makers understand the need for strategic infrastructure and passenger transport planning for Tasmania's future – a future of bigger cities, more people and an older population. Buses will play the central role in mobility in the years ahead. We need to plan now.



- Develop bus priority lanes and busways.
- Introduce priority traffic light and signalling for buses, as our major centres become more congested
- Encourage more walkways and bicycle ways
- The adoption of front of bus bike racks to encourage the use of bicycles as an extension of a bus journey.
- The development of a Sustainability Passenger Transport Fund to facilitate the development of services, technology and on-street infrastructure. Funding could come from sources such as vehicle registration fees and GST collected on fuels used by passenger transport vehicles.
- In any planning for passenger transport in the future, the TasBus policy says social inclusion must be taken into account. In other words, affording and convenient transport to connect all Tasmanians – wherever they live – to opportunity, whether it be work choices, social activities, or accessing services such as Government agencies, doctors, etc
- In line with the findings of a key review into the industry, TasBus supports a Government funding program of \$3 million per annum over five years to upgrade the fleet of rural school buses on identified high risk routes.



## Transporting Tasmanians in the future

All the predictions for the future see an Australia which will have a higher and older population, larger and more crowded cities, and a growing focus on sustainable transport, in an atmosphere of heightened environmental awareness.

According to the Demographic Change Advisory Council, Tasmania is looking at a population growth of some 10% in the next 30 years, to about 560,000 inhabitants.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government predicts the Australian population could grow to 35 million in just the next four decades. If Tasmania was to capture just one percent of this growth, it would mean an additional 130,000 people living in this State.

Whichever way you look at it, Tasmanian infrastructure – its cities, towns, roads, and services – will come under pressure. Unless we plan for the future.

TasBus represents bus operators who transport hundreds of thousands of passengers each year between regional and urban centres. We're vitally concerned about the future of passenger transport, and to assist the public and policy makers in this area, we have developed a Policy which you can read at [www.tasbus.com.au](http://www.tasbus.com.au)

This brochure provides just some of the key points we want addressed on behalf of our traveling public.



## Tasmania's unique transport challenge

Our population is dispersed between medium sized cities, country towns, and smaller hamlets. Because our population – by national standards - is dispersed, small, and ageing, passenger transport has not been able to develop in the same way as larger communities such as Sydney and Melbourne.

Instead, buses have provided the backbone of public transport. Today, the Metro and TasBus networks represent the only mature passenger transport system in Tasmania.

TasBus encourages the development of other sustainable transport systems, including bicycles, ferries, taxi, walking, and even light rail if such projects prove to be sustainable. However, some of the options would involve massive start-up investment costs, whereas the existing bus network can be expanded quickly and at little cost to meet future demand.

Buses are widely recognised globally as core to the future transport challenges of population growth, climate change, and traffic congestion. Buses and bus routes are flexible and adaptable. There are even buses operating in Europe now which can travel on both road and railway lines.

### Strategic Assessment for future transport

Tasmania's bus operators support a strategic approach to passenger transport in the decades ahead. This would require input from all stakeholders, including bus operators and passengers, transport economists, town planners, local, state and federal governments.

We need to develop and implement a detailed strategic plan to meet the challenge of passenger transport for all Tasmanians in the decades ahead.

## TasBus policy

The TasBus policy is designed to build a sustainable passenger transport future for Tasmania. Here are some of the key highlights

- A goal of achieving by 2040 the carriage of 40% of all passenger trips in Tasmania by bus, to make our towns and cities friendlier, and support environmental aims
- Bus operators have invested \$40 million in new vehicles in the past two years. Our policy calls for further investment to bring the average age of the bus fleet down to 12 years by 2020
- Utilise intelligent transport systems (ITS) and advanced technology to improve the network from an operational and user perspective.
- Introduce integrated ticketing. That's our vision which would allow commuters to travel anywhere in the State on the TasBus and Metro networks using the one ticket.
- A major, official audit of existing transport systems to make them better and more efficient
- Increased service coverage in areas identified as "transport poor", based on the official audit, particularly in rural and semi rural areas.
- Raising awareness of alternative transport choices has proven to deliver benefits, not only in patronage increases and accessibility to the system, but also safety
- The Government to provide salary package incentives to public servants to commute by bus as a choice of travel.
- Review bus interchange infrastructure in major centres and invest in modern facilities to improve the travel experience.