



Report 07.396
Date 19 June 2007
File E/06/19/03

Committee Passenger Transport Committee
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Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Public Transport Division since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Managers' reports

The Departmental managers' reports are attached (**Attachment 1**).

4. Highlights

Key matters to highlight since the previous report are listed below:

- Budget 2007 included several elements that will assist with funding public transport improvements in the region. Specifically:
 - Allocation of \$600 million over six years to fund electrification, upgrades and maintenance of the Auckland and Wellington Metropolitan rail networks.
 - Provision for a regional fuel tax of up to 10 cents a litre.
 - Extension to an interest free loan to enable GW to provide additional short-term rail capacity.

All of the above elements are positive for public transport in the region. Work has already commenced on the provision of additional rolling stock to increase current capacity issues. It is too early to say how the additional \$600 million for rail infrastructure will be applied, but discussions with the

various parties involved are planned. Similarly it is too early to provide comment on a regional fuel tax as details of how it will be applied are not yet available.

- As set out in the attached Manager's reports, the first seven GW owned refurbished carriages are in operation on the Wairarapa line, marking the start of a new improved rail service for the region.

5. Communication

No communications are required.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

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Attachment 1: Departmental Managers' reports