



Tasmanian youth forum

Statewide Forum on Transport

Introduction

On August 19, 2010 almost 90 young Tasmanians from across the state came together to increase their knowledge, and express their opinions in regards to transport issues in Tasmania. The young people present were interested in the social, environmental and economic impacts of current transport options in Tasmania, as well as how they related to young Tasmanians. The Statewide Forum on Transport was held at the Punchbowl Christian Centre in Launceston, and was facilitated by TYF members, with the support of Michael O'Meara (Mo) of MoHow Consultancy. The Minister for Sustainable Transport and Alternative Energy, the Hon Nick McKim MP opened the forum.

The aims of the forum were to:

- Discuss what the issue of transport means to young Tasmanians,
- Reflect upon practical solutions to transport issues that can be undertaken by young Tasmanians, and
- Provide an opportunity for young Tasmanians to share ideas and interact with professionals and experts working within the transport industry

During the forum participants participated in workshops around particular issues relating to transport, such as safety, licences and how transport impacts on the community. Each of the workshops were facilitated by a TYF member and an expert from the transport industry. These experts were from highly relevant transport organisations and departments, such as Metro Tasmania, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), and Dr Bruce Corben, Senior Research Fellow of Monash University's Accident Research Centre.

The TYF Statewide Forum on Transport was made possible with funding from the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Community Development Division (Office of Children and Youth Affairs) and the RACT, who provided support for the funding of transport to the venue for participants.

This communiqué outlines some of the ideas and issues raised by the young Tasmanians present at the forum. It also outlines some of the practical strategies and initiatives that were proposed by participants to transport problems in Tasmania, for example rural isolation due to lack of public transport options.

Brainstorming and Vision Casting

At the start of the forum participants were invited to reflect upon and discuss the importance of transport to them - how it impacted upon the motivating factors in their lives.

During the discussion participants outlined the following factors as being important to their lives, and which were influenced by transport options (or the lack of it):

- Going to the movies
- Hanging out with friends
- Bike riding
- Swimming
- Bushwalking
- Going to the park
- Meeting up with girls
- Going overseas
- Watching sports

Tasmania's Transport System – what does it mean to you?

Participants were then challenged to embrace the opportunity to be involved in the generation of new ideas to old problems – suggesting that it was a risk to leave decision making to others that might not understand all issues involved. Participants were invited to reflect on the situation of Tasmania – what options were available, what was lacking, and the impacts of this system.

Considering the transport options present in Tasmania, participants then asked what was the likelihood of their staying in Tasmania after finishing school.

- The majority of participants indicated that they planned to leave Tasmania

For reasons such as

- To explore
- To travel

Refining Our Ideas

During this part of the forum, participants were split into small groups to discuss the questions ‘What do we want to be known for, in regards to the transport?’ and ‘What would our banner be?’

Some examples from this activity included:

- We did it! We changed the face of Tasmania!
- We made positive change!
- We made public transport environmentally friendly!

Participants were then introduced to the experts and professionals working in the transport industry that would help to facilitate the workshops on transport issues. There were two sessions of workshops spread over the day. Each of the workshops were run twice, enabling participants to partake in discussions on two transport related issues that they were passionate about. The experts and their related workshops were:

Staying in One Piece!

Dr Bruce Corben, Senior Research Fellow, Monash University Accident Research Centre
David McIntee, Road Safety Consultant Road Safety Operations Branch, DIER
Grant Douglas, Manager of the Road Safety Operations Branch,

Licence...to drive

Senior Constable Annabel Shegog, Northern Community Policing Services

Vince Taskunas, General Manager Public Policy & Communications of RACT

Transport and the Community

Jen Barron, Youth Development Officer of Dorset Council

Kristie Johnston, representing Northern Suburbs Light Rail Action Group

Modes and Models

Jehni Sheyan, Youth Development Officer of Kingborough Council,

Paul Bullock representing Tasmanian Motorcycle Council

Transport Options

Samantha Simonetis, Secretary of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union

Stuart Davies, CEO Community Transport Services Tasmania

Getting Around

Geoff Lewis – Tasmanian Bus Association

Kris Lebski, Service Planner, Metro Tasmania

Tom Crane, Business Analyst, Metro Tasmania

Potential Ideas

The following is a summary of the ideas presented to the audience after the conclusion of both workshop sessions. They are presented in the order of the most popular. Ideas were graded depending on the amount of 'dots' they received from participants and each participant was given three dots, which they distributed amongst the ideas as they saw fit.

Expansion of Rail services (72 votes)

The most popular idea at the forum was to expand the existing rail networks in Tasmania, including the development of more passenger freight services. Participants keen on the idea of rail believed that it would be a good alternative to the existing public transport options. Rail was seen not only as an option within urban areas (for example the proposed Light Rail Network for Hobart's Northern Suburbs), but also intrastate travel between major centres such as between Launceston, Hobart, Burnie and Devonport.

Some of the benefits of increased passenger rail services in urban centres included: it would decrease rural isolation, it would be efficient in terms of time (buses seen as unreliable), it would decrease the number of road accidents, it had a ready market (commuters to Hobart), lower operating costs than buses, more effective public transport would attract population, positive social inclusion effects, and economic benefits for communities around stations.



Increasing ferry services in Derwent River (53 votes)

Participants who liked this idea highlighted that there was already some existing ferry services on the Derwent River, such as the service from Bellerive Quay to the Hobart Waterfront, however they discussed the option of getting services to Hobart from places such as Kingston, Bridgewater, Risdon Vale, Bellerive and further down the Kingborough region.

Participants in favour of this idea compared the situation of Hobart (based on a water system) to places like London, Hawaii and Venice, where ferry services already operate with great success. Benefits to this idea included: that it would provide an efficient, faster, reliable and attractive alternative to existing public transport options, as well as that it may attract tourists, create jobs, and decrease road congestion.

Environmental Sustainability (31 dots)

Participants advocating for this idea believed that Tasmania's transport system should always aim to be environmentally friendly, use renewable fuel sources, and be accessible, especially to marginalised social groups.

Included in the idea of environmental sustainability was a promotion of public transport generally, as most Tasmanians still focus on cars as their primary source of transport. To encourage public transport use, advocates of this idea discussed the need to improve existing services, for example making buses more reliable, having smaller buses that are fuller and fuel efficient, putting bike racks in buses, make

buses more inviting, increasing TV advertising of the benefits of buses, simpler and easier to understand timetables for Metro.

Advocates also discussed the need to promote cycling as a transport option by having better hire facilities, making more bike paths, putting bike racks in the mall and putting bike racks on buses.



Connecting the Community with minibuses (29 dots)

Participants who liked this idea saw minibuses as a way of connecting isolated and rural communities to public transport networks. Generally, in regions such as George Town there are limited services due to being seen as lacking in demand. This lack of service isolates people, especially marginal social groups such as young people, who need public transport to attend work, go to social activities etc. Participants who liked the minibus idea thought that they could bridge this gap as mini buses are a cheap, fuel efficient, fast and environmentally friendly method of public transport to urban centres. It was thought that having minibuses would also enable more regular services to these regions and create employment opportunities (i.e. more bus drivers).

DUDE! (Define, Understanding, Driving, Education) (27 dots)

Participants who were keen on this idea believed that there needs to be increased driver education to young Tasmanians to decrease the death rates and car accidents. One of the major issues brought up was the lack of standard license information and driver safety education given in schools. Another issue raised was the need for defensive driving training for young people – learning how to cope in different conditions, deal with distractions and avoid hazards.

Timetables (25 dots)

A substantial number of participants raised the issue of the importance of accessible, accurate, easy to read bus timetables. Advocates of this view suggested that Metro Tasmania could improve their

services by making timetables electronic (like they do in Melbourne for the trams – bus stop alerts you how far away your bus is), having timetables at all busstops (and seats at the bus stops too), bus service information should be sent via text messages (i.e. you can text a Metro number which will sent you the details of when your next bus is), and making sure that buses run to the times indicated on timetables!



Tax Subsidies for Non Petroleum cars (21 dots)

Participants who liked this idea thought that the benefits of having tax subsidies for non-petroleum cars would include: it is better for the environment to move away from fossil fuels, it make these cars more accessible and cost effective if they are subsidised, it will promote the development of more 'green' technology (as the 'green industry' will be assured that the Government views the environment as important) and it will make the car industry more sustainable (running out of oil!).

Compulsory BAC Breath Testers (21 dots)

Advocates of this idea thought that giving breathalyzers to all P platers would deter risk taking-behavior as people would be certain of their alcohol levels before driving – discussions suggested that because people have to guess whether they are over the limit or not, they are likely to underestimate their intoxication level and take the risk and drive.

Bullet trains – 'See the Past, Watch the Future' (11 dots)

Participants who liked this idea thought that it could be a good alternative to connect regional towns in Tasmanian with urban centres and airports. This group also floated the idea of having a tunnel under Bass Strait connecting Devonport and Melbourne.

Dangerous driving and appropriate vehicles for P Platers (6)

Advocates of this idea thought that there should be harsher penalties for dangerous driving, speed limiters on cars (particularly for L Platers and P Platers), and more research done into why people do drive dangerously when there is evidence showing how deadly it can be. These participants also

discussed how they believed P Platers should not be allowed to drive powered-up cars as it encouraged risky behavior.

Conditional Licencing (5)

Participants who were keen on this idea thought that learner drivers should have to do more varied types of driver education including driving in different conditions such as in the rain and at night, and that all learners should have to do at least two lessons with an instructor (or four if it was government supported).

Progress

Since the TYF Statewide Forum on Transport TYF members and YNOT staff have progressed the issue of transport in a number of ways, including:

- YNOT and TYF have had meetings with the Kim Booth MP of the Tasmania Greens about the major ideas at the forum
- YNOT and TYF have meet with Claire Jansen, advisor to the Minister of Community Development Nick McKim MP about the outcomes of the forum
- YNOT and TYF have been in contact with each of the experts present on the day, keeping them informed about the progress with the Communiqué
- The RACT have featured an article about the Statewide Forum on Transport in one of their newsletters.

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