

## Passenger Transport Committee Meeting

<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Agenda-Reports/Passenger-Transport-Committee-Folder/Passenger-Transport-Committee-2025-17-06/Public%20Agenda.pdf>

The last Passenger Transport Committee Meeting for this triennium was held on Tuesday, 17 June.

- Palmerston North and Whanganui services extensively reviewed in the past year and patronage has increased significantly (despite public perception of many half empty buses).
- Submission on Horizons AP consultation to improve Whanganui and Horowhenua services without funding from NZTA was approved at the Horizons Strategy and Policy Meeting 10 June and to be ratified at the Horizons Council meeting next week (p 51 2.5)
- 266 submissions received on this matter with 86% supporting it.
- This is despite the Horizons Finance Policy in not advancing public transport projects without central government co-funding which would in theory allow increases in regional services but there has been no further work done in this area at this time.
- Government policy is also trying to move school bus services onto regional councils if public services are available in the area without funding (around Palmerston North at this stage) p82 13.
- HRC has not supported this as there would be significant additional costs involved unbudgeted as yet and estimated to be a quarter to a third user funded with the rest rate payer funded though discussions are ongoing.
- Upgrades to the rail connection between Palmerston North and Wellington (p82 14) will include 4 return trips per weekday and 2 in weekends at a lower cost than the existing Capital Connection.
- Project on schedule and in procurement and consent stage but target start date is 2029.

Jeff Wong