

# Waimakariri bus service review update



In May and July, we consulted with the community on proposed changes to Waimakariri bus services.

We had 552 responses during our second round of community consultation in July. The feedback has been extremely helpful in determining the final services for Waimakariri residents.

- 62.9% of respondents agreed with the updated proposal, of which some suggested changes or raised concerns.
- 37.1% of respondents did not agree with the updated proposal.

The feedback we received has resulted in some changes to the final routes.

## **Sovereign Palms**

We received 210 submissions from residents living within Sovereign Palms. There were two clear, differing themes in these submissions. Some submitters felt having services closer to their homes would make it easier and more attractive to use public transport now and in the future, while others felt services remaining on Williams Street provided good enough access to public transport for the area.

The majority of respondents from Sovereign Palms fell into the latter category and so the route will remain on Williams Street (the same as the current 95 service).

We understand that this will come as a disappointment to some members of the community. There will be further residential development in North Kaiapoi in the future, and as this development occurs it will be necessary to review the network in this area again, including in the Sovereign Palms area.

## **Waikuku**

We received 68 submissions from Waikuku residents. The majority of these were concerned about there being no public transport service to Waikuku. Some suggested alternative options such as retaining one or two trips a day, raising fares to Waikuku in order to continue

operating the existing uneconomic trips, or providing a school service to Papanui Road and city schools instead.

We understand the concerns raised through the feedback process and are now working through options that might allow the retention of up to two trips each weekday to and from Waikuku. This could be through a mix of trips that are an extension of route 95 trips, and Metro school services. Some of the ideas suggested by residents are also being evaluated as a part of this process, such as a different fare. We will communicate with Waikuku submitters again once the evaluation process is completed.

### **Pegasus**

We received 91 submissions from Pegasus residents. The feedback showed strong support for both the 95 Pegasus – City and the Rangiora – Pegasus Link services.

There was some feedback about the proposed route looping in Pegasus via Solander Road, Infinity Drive, Pegasus Main Street and Pegasus Boulevard, to start and end trips on both routes. Feedback from some residents suggested they would prefer both services to continue using the current route and bus stops via Lakeside Drive and Tiritiri Moana Drive.

Any service changes to Waimakariri routes need to fit into the available funding. In order to provide the new Link service, we need to adjust the routes within Pegasus in order to remain within budget. Continuing to travel to Tiritiri Moana Drive would cost more, because of the extra distance and time involved. Because we received so much support for the Rangiora - Pegasus Link, the loop route will go ahead as proposed on both the 95 and Link service.

### **Rangiora**

Feedback received throughout both consultations showed good support for the Blue Line route and Rangiora – Pegasus Link.

We received some feedback about the proposed Blue Line terminus on River Road, particularly around safety and driver access to toilet facilities. After considering this feedback, it's been decided that the Blue Line route within Rangiora will continue to use the current Ashley Street terminus. The route will travel via King Street, Kingsbury Avenue, West Belt, River Road and Ashley Street in both directions.

As Rangiora continues to grow, there will be future opportunities to explore alternative terminus locations, such as the Coldstream sporting facility or new residential developments.

### **All other areas**

Other feedback included comments on service hours of operation and frequency and being able to connect between services in Rangiora and Kaiapoi for travel within Waimakariri.

This feedback has been considered when determining the final routes and will be revisited as the schedules are completed for these services.

## **Summary**

The confirmed Waimakariri routes are:

**Blue Line:** The Blue Line will travel via Williams Street and Lineside Road. Within Rangiora, the route will continue to use the existing terminus on Ashley Street. The service will continue to operate at its current frequencies.

**95 Pegasus – City:** This service will travel via Silverstream to Pegasus, operating half-hourly at peak times on weekdays and hourly at all other times. The route includes one trip on weekday mornings and afternoons, diverting to Kaiapoi High School so students can continue to access the school. As noted above, we are continuing to work through options that could retain up to two trips each weekday to and from Waikuku.

**Rangiora – Pegasus Link:** This new service will travel hourly between 7.30am - 6.30pm on weekdays, 8.30am - 6.30pm on Saturdays and 9.30am - 6.30pm on Sundays.

The changes will be implemented in early 2020.

The feedback from Waimakariri has helped us to develop routes that will provide more residents with better connections between towns within Waimakariri, while remaining within the available budget.

Later this year, we will be consulting with Waimakariri residents on the types of commuter bus services that could use the Northern Arterial Motorway when it opens in 2020, and how such services could be funded.

If you have any questions, please email [metroreview@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:metroreview@ecan.govt.nz), or call Metroinfo on 03 366 88 55.