



south and west gippsland transport group



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A FAIR GO FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND TRANSPORT ANALYSIS OF BUS SERVICES

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Executive Summary

This report has been prepared by the South West Gippsland Transport Group to address the inequities in the provision of local bus services in Victoria. Southern Gippsland has a combined population of 61,840 in 2016 with major centres in Wonthaggi (6876), Leongatha (5332), Inverloch (4961), Korumburra (4373) and Phillip Island (10,387). The area is due to grow by 17,591 people from the 64,184 in 2016 to 81,775 in 2036. Southern Gippsland does not have an equitable access to public transport services. It is disadvantaged in terms of the provision of public bus services to Melbourne and cross regionally to Traralgon and the La Trobe Valley. Its service standards compare unfavourable with Warragul, Cranbourne and Berwick.

In summary the findings of this report are as follows:

1. Has minimal bus services to Melbourne in comparison to other regional areas
2. Has an extremely poor local bus service in comparison to other regional areas.
3. Has poor cross regional services to La Trobe Valley
4. South Gippsland does not have any local bus services with the exception of the trunk route to Melbourne and the cross regional services through Leongatha, Mirboo and to Traralgon.

Whether you compare Southern Gippsland with similar sized town or council areas it has been forgotten and neglected by all parties. The majority of the two shires have poor access to Melbourne with only between 3- 6 bus services on weekdays. South Gippsland has extremely poor local bus services. There are no local bus services and the only such services are along the trunk route to Melbourne and the Wonthaggi-Traralgon route. Good local and cross regional transport is essential for people to access services, such as the La Trobe Regional Hospital.

A commitment was made of \$5m under the previous labour government, but this was reneged on by the previous Ballieu Liberal-National Government and funds reallocated. A commitment to improving local accessibility of public transport was made by Minister Jacinta Allen in 2016, when she launched the "Connecting Regional Victoria to Improving Local Transport and Making New Connections". Despite the rhetoric in the report there has been no improvement in local services for Southern Gippsland. People in Southern Gippsland are being treated as second class citizens.

72% of people in South Gippsland have poor access to services such as hospitals, health centres, courts, TAFE/Uni, Centrelink, Centrelink Agencies and pharmacies. Some 20,000 people do not have ready access to important services, which others take for granted. South Gippsland is significantly disadvantaged in terms of ready access to public transport with only 8.5% having a bus stop within 800m from home versus 35% for Gippsland councils or the State average of 74%.

Southern Gippsland has only a handful of taxis, which for many people are too expensive and at times difficult to access. If the government is committed to principles of equity and fairness priority must immediately be given to develop a local transport network that as the State Government own report says that public transport should *"get people where they need to go", "make it easier for people to move around regional Victoria using public transport.", "respond to changing local travel needs and support local infrastructure and services plans and finally "Improving local transport and making new connections."* All of these objectives and principles have been breached by the Government.

Recommendations

1. Immediate plans are made for township bus or a tele-bus services for South Gippsland main towns and with a loop connecting Korumburra with Leongatha.
2. Improvements are made in services connecting to Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Leongatha, Mirboo North and Traralgon.
3. Services to Melbourne are increased from Wonthaggi and Yarram.

Unfair Comparison with Castlemaine

Castlemaine has an estimated population of 8,378 people. It is equidistant from Melbourne smaller in size than Leongatha-Korumburra and has far more services

It has some 16 weekday bus services connecting local towns and 5-7 weekend day services.

It has 21 weekday and 15 weekend service to Melbourne

Public Transport Services to Melbourne

Public Transport Services	weekdays	weekends	Pop 2016	Service/pop/WD
Ballarat - Melbourne via Melton	21	20	104,759	4989
Bendigo - Melbourne via Gisborne	20	15	111,783	5589
Castlemaine Station - Melbourne	21	15	6,751	321
Maryborough - Melbourne	21	4	7,174	342
Corowa - Melbourne via Rutherglen & Wangaratta	16	11	5,482	343
(Lancefield 1) - Melbourne via Sunbury or Gisborne	16	15	1,517	95
Melbourne via Seymour	15	11	6,327	422
Yarrawonga Mulwala - Melbourne via Benalla & Seymour	15	11	9,073	605
Ararat - Melbourne via Ballarat	7	6	8,297	1185
Melbourne via Sale	7	3	12,766	1824
Echuca/Moama - Melbourne	7	3	12,613	1802
Cowes and Inverloch - Melbourne via Dandenong & Koo Wee Rup	6	4	20,000	3333
Wodonga - Bendigo via Wangaratta & Shepparton	6	4	31,605	5268
Bairnsdale - Melbourne via Sale & Traralgon	5	3	11,820	2364
Daylesford - Melbourne via Woodend or Castlemaine	2	2	2,548	1274

Leongatha has six weekday services and Wonthaggi has four

Accessibility of Services by Towns

The following table examines the number and percentage of people who have direct access to a range of services.

Accessibility of Services by Towns						
	SGSC		Bass Coast		Total	
	Number not accessible	Percentage not Accessible	Number not accessible	Percentage not Accessible	Number not accessible	Percentage not Accessible
Hospital	16106	57.3	15657	52.2	31763	51.7
Health Centre	13866	49.3	25357	84.5	39223	63.9
Courts	23734	84.4	15657	52.2	39391	64.1
Tafe/Uni	22775	81.0	15657	52.2	38432	62.6
Centre Link	28107	100.0	15657	52.2	43764	71.3
Centre Link Agency	22775	81.0	11606	38.7	38432	62.6
Pharmacy	14492	51.6	16690	55.6	31182	50.8
Average		72.1		55.4		61.0

- Good local and cross regional transport is essential for people to access services.
- 72% of South Gippsland residents have poor accessibility to key services
- 57% of Bass Coast residents have poor accessibility to key services

Equity in the Provision of Local Bus Services

Local bus services are a vital link for people to work, services, facilities, education and local shopping. In Bass Coast Shire 20.8% of people have incomes less than \$500 per week, 27.7% are over 65 years and 3.5% had no vehicles and 29.4% of households only had one vehicle. Some 2,153 local people are disabled. In South Gippsland 19.4% of people have incomes less than \$500 per week, 23.7% are over 65 years, 3.5% had no vehicles and 29.4% of households only had one vehicle.

Korumburra with 4,373 people and Leongatha with 5,332, with a combined population of nearly 10,000 people have no local bus service. Maffra with 5,112 people, Lakes Entrance with 4,569 and Churchill with 5,000 people have local bus services. On a combined basis with a population Korumburra and Leongatha have a population of 9,705 and are only 14.6km apart. Looking across the State there are 18 smaller towns that have local bus services.

South Gippsland with a population of 28,000 people has no local bus services. Wonthaggi has 8 local bus routes serving Cape Patterson (4 services for 719 people), Inverloch (3 services for 4961 people). Cowes (2 services for 4181 people), Coronella (1 services for 630 people), Wonthaggi North (6 services), San Remo (3 services for 1083 people) Wonthaggi South (6 services) has 26 local bus services daily. If you count the city service from Yarram, Foster, Fish Creek, Buffalo, Meeniyah & Koonwarra have 3 daily services and Leongatha, Korumburra, Loch, Nyora have six services. The timing of the bus services is also problematic. The services aren't early enough to go to work and last buses are leave too early.

Population within 800m of public transport

Bass Coast	Baw Baw	East Gippsland	Latrobe	South Gippsland	Wellington	GIPPSLAND	VICTORIA
37%	22%	20%	65%	8.5%	27%	35%	74%

Source: Brief Population Health Profile Gippsland Snapshot May 2016

- South Gippsland is significantly disadvantaged in terms of ready access to public transport (800m from home) than Gippsland Councils (35%) or the state average of 74%

Towns South Gippsland not serviced by buses

Township	Population
Venus Bay	589
Poowong	643
Dumbalk	413
Tarwin Lower	358
Bena	238
Sandy Point	270
Yanakie	251
Port Welshpool	179
Port Franklin	134
Jumbunna	127
Walkerville	84
Waratah Bay	56
Sub Total	3088
Rural Population	8767
Total	11855

Venus Bay, Poowong, Dumbalk, Tarwin Lower, Bena, Sandy Point, Yanakie, Port Welshpool, Port Franklin, Jumbunna, Walkerville and Waratah Bay with a combined population of 3,088 have no bus service. On top of this there are some 8,767 people living in rural areas also have poor access.

Other comparable areas of the state are comparatively well serviced with local bus services (e.g. Castlemaine). Castlemaine has an estimated population of 8,378 people has some 16 weekday bus services connecting local towns and 5-7 weekend services per day.

Comparison of Township Bus Services with similar sized towns

Korumburra-Leongatha with a combed population of 9707 is very poorly treated in comparison to equivalent towns.

Township Bus Service	Population 2011	Council
Traralgon	24950	La Trobe
Moe-Newborough	15292	La Trobe
Horsham	15896	Horsham
Bacchus Marsh	14913	Central Goldfields
Wonthaggi	14443	Bass Coast
Warragul	14074	Baw Baw
Morwell	13961	La Trobe
Benalla	13643	Benalla
Echuca	13652	Campaspe
Bairnsdale	11820	East Gippsland
Gisborne	11080	Macedon Ranges
Colac	10857	Colac-Otway
Torquay	10142	Surf Coast
Hamilton	10104	South Grampians
Drouin	9686	Baw Baw
Portland.	9601	Glenelg
Swan Hill	8979	Swan Hill
Ararat	8976	Ararat

Wallan	8504	Mitchell Shire
Mooroopna	7813	Greater Shepparton
Maryborough	7174	Central Goldfields
Yarrawonga	7051	Moirra Shire
Newborough	6933	La Trobe
Kyenton	6629	Macedon Ranges
Kilmore	6678	Mitchell Shire
Seymour	6360	Mitchell Shire
Stawell	6150	Northern Grampians
Cobram	6018	Moirra Shire
Castlemaine	5909	Mt Alexander
Leongatha	5334	South Gippsland
Maffra	5112	Wellington Shire
Churchill	5000	La Trobe
Lakes Entrance	4569	East Gippsland
Korumburra	4373	South Gippsland

Source: "Connecting Regional Victoria to Improving Local Transport and Making New Connections."

- 18 towns in Victoria of less population than Korumburra and Leongatha have township service.

Comparison of Township Bus Services with Gippsland Councils

Councils by local town buses	Number	Pop 2011	Bus/pop
Bass Coast	2	32,056	32056
East Gippsland	2	44,680	22340
Baw Baw	2	44,042	22021
Wellington Shire	2	43,920	21960
La Trobe	4	76,640	19160
South Gippsland	0	27,213	0

- South Gippsland is grossly disadvantaged in comparison with other Council areas in Gippsland.

Comparison of township bus services by Councils

Councils by local buses	Nos.	Pop 2011	Bus/pop
South Gippsland	0	27,213	0
Central Goldfields	2	12,792	6396
Mitchell Shire	3	35,995	11998
Ararat	1	12,070	12070
Northern Grampians	1	12,196	12196
Benalla	1	14,318	14318
Moirra Shire	2	29,483	14742
South Grampians	1	17,411	17411
Mt Alexander	1	18,416	18416
La Trobe	4	76,640	19160
Campaspe	2	38,981	19491

Horsham	1	20,375	20375
Glenelg	1	21,236	21236
Macedon Ranges	2	43,241	21621
Wellington Shire	2	43,920	21960
Baw Baw	2	44,042	22021
Colac-Otway	1	22,108	22108
Swan Hill	1	22,275	22275
East Gippsland	2	44,680	22340
Surf Coast	1	26,873	26873
Wangaratta	1	29,018	29018
Greater Shepparton	2	63,854	31927
Bass Coast	1	32,056	32056
Warrnambool	1	34,193	34193
Wodonga	1	37,131	37131
Mildura	1	54,666	54666
Ballarat	1	97,810	97810
Geelong	1	223,047	223047

- South Gippsland is significantly disadvantaged in comparison to other rural council areas in the lack of provision of local bus services.

Southern Gippsland Bus Services

	Weekday	Week/end
Melbourne		
Yarrum to Leongatha	3	3
Leongatha to Melbourne	6	3
Cowes and Inverloch - Melbourne via Dandenong & Koo Wee Rup	4	2
Cross regional		
Wonthaggi - Traralgon via Leongatha	3	2
Cowes, San Remo, Anderson, Grantville Fountain Gate (one day per week)	1	0

Southern Gippsland Map for local bus services

Local Bus services Bass Coast	Weekday	Week/end
Coronet Bay - Grantville via Corinella	4	3
Coronet Bay - Wonthaggi via Corinella	1	0
Cowes - Anderson - Wonthaggi	4	4
Wonthaggi - Leongatha via Inverloch	1	0
Wonthaggi - Dudley - Wonthaggi	6	0
Wonthaggi - Wonthaggi North - Wonthaggi	6	0
Wonthaggi Town Service (Cape Paterson)	5	0

Analysis of Townships by Services

South Gippsland	Leongatha	Korumburra	Mirboo North	Foster	Nyora	Loch	Toora	Fish Creek	Meeniyar	Poowong	Venus Bay	Welshpool	Dumbalk	Tarwin Lower
Population	5332	4373	2296	1877	1332	967	887	791	645	610	589	439	412	358
Hospital	YES	YES												
Health Centre	YES	YES	YES	YES										YES
Courts		YES												
Tafe/Uni	YES													
Centre Link														
Centre Link Agency	YES													
Pharmacy	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES				YES					YES
Bus services	6	6	3	3	6	6	3	3	3	0	0	3	0	0
Poor access			Poor	Poor			Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

- The lack of public transport makes many vital services difficult to access.
- Nearly 17,000 people do not have direct access to full hospital services.
- 23,000 do not have access readily to Tafe services.
- There is only one centre link agency in Leongatha and one court in Korumburra.
- Cross regional transport buses from Wonthaggi via Leongatha and Mirboo North run only three times a day making access to hospitals, courts, education very difficult.
- Areas south of Leongatha have only three buses a day to access services and faculties.

Analysis of Townships by Services Bass Coast Shire

Bass Coast	Wonthaggi	Cowes	Inverloch	Cape Woolamai	Sam Remo	Surf Beach	Ventnor	Grantville	Coronet Bay	Cape Patterson	Rhyll	Dalyston	Corinella
Population	6876	4051	4961	1551	1083	1033	837	738	708	719	673	604	630
Hospital	YES												
Health Centre	YES				YES								
Courts	YES												
Tafe/Uni	YES												
Centre Link	YES												
Centre Link Agency	YES	YES											
Pharmacy		YES	YES		YES			YES					
Buses	26	7	9		5			5	5	5			5
Poor Access				Poor		Poor	Poor				Poor		

- Services for Bass Coast are concentrated in Wonthaggi
- Because of local bus services Cowes, Inverloch, Cape Patterson, Grantville, Coronet Bay, Corinella have reasonable access to major services.

Southern Gippsland Township by demographics

	Leongatha	Korumburra	Mirboo North	Foster	Nora	Loch	Toora	Fish Creek	Meeniyar	Poowong	Venus Bay	Tarwin Lower
Population	5332	4373	2296	1677	1332	967	887	791	645	610	589	363
Households	2399	1964	962	925	506	464	472	434	288	283	1555	210
65 +	1098	852	421	510	158	164	209	153	99	90	167	78
% 65+	20.60%	19.5	18.4	30.4	11.9	17%	23.6	19.30%	41	14.7	28.4	21.6
Median Age	40	43	43	54	39	48	52	48	41	43	54	50
Post secondary	239	114	117	41	62	32	27	15	22	1	12	7
Household income <\$600	29.90%	33.80%	31.3	39.90%	20.30%	22.3	41.7	30.50%	31.2	27.1	56.20%	35.2
Workforce	2537	1942	1042	739	399	509	408	193	321	301	193	170
No vehicle	123	103		4.90%	3	4	15	14	5	4	14	0
Occupied households	2154		829	707'	457	380	386	316	252	238	274	145
% Households no vehicle	5.7	6%	2.6	4.90%	1.9	1	3.90%	4.4	1	1.7	5%	0
One vehicle	784	596	235	279'	87	92	135	151	66	76	151	40
% One vehicle	36.40%	34%	28.4	39.5	19.0	24.2	35.0	47.8	26.2	31.9	0.6	27.9
Volunteerism %	27.50%	24.30%	32.5	32.5	34.6	29.2	31.8	25.7	31.8	32.9	25.7	36.6
Seasonal population	7197	5892	2886	2775	1371	1416	1416	1302	849	4665	4665	630

Disabled Persons by Council area

Persons with a profound or severe disability (2011)

Bass Coast	Baw Baw	East Gippsland	Latrobe	South Gippsland	Wellington	GIPPSLAND	VICTORIA
1,723	2,090	2,692	4,543	1,403	2,297	14,758	253,539

Brief Population Health Profile Gippsland Snapshot May 2016

1,585 people or 5.5% of the population in South Gippsland Shire in 2016 reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.

2,153 people or 6.6% of the population in Bass Coast Shire in 2016 reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.