

Transporter



October 2016

Where has the year gone?

It's that time of year again when we start asking, 'where has the year gone?' Winter has come and gone, Term 4 is now underway, and we're starting to turn our minds to Christmas (or is that just retailers?).

Public bus recontracting project (project 2018)

The Treasurer has now signed off on a process under Treasurers Instruction 105 for implementing the Governments election commitment to provide a further 5 + 5 contract for incumbent operators, providing key performance conditions are met and there is an ongoing need for a particular service in a particular area.

The process still require operators to demonstrate value for money and is to encourage competition where it can. An independent probity advisor, Harvey Gibson, has also been engaged to oversee the entire procurement process to ensure fairness, transparency and equity.

In simple terms, once the need for a service/route has been determined, incumbent operators will be 'matched' to these new services. The key principle driving this matching process will be that the majority of passengers that will use the new service would be expected to be drawn from the current operator's service. This draws both a geographical catchment (route matching) and service type (school vs general access) distinction between services for matching purposes.

The outcome from an operator's point of view will be either that:

1. you will be directly matched to a new service and a contract offer will subsequently be made; or
2. You will be informed that more than one operator has been matched against the new service, and that a closed tender for that route will occur; or
3. You will be notified that an existing contract (or trip) you have been providing has not been matched against any needed service and that your service won't be recontracted.

Directly matched offers and closed tender processes will be subject to a 30 day appeal period where other operators may appeal the matching process to demonstrate that they should also have been matched to that new service. These claims will be assessed by a separate panel to those that made the original decisions.

There may also be situations where new services are identified where no operator currently operates that service. Any new services will go to an open tender process.

More information on the Project 2018 re-contracting process is available on the Project 2018 page of the Department's website.

Project 2018 regional meetings

All rural school bus operators (including rural fare paying service operators) who have returned their bus survey and Negotiation Deed should now have received their initial assessment advice. If this is not the case, please contact Andrew Mullen on 6166 4470.

We are arranging a series of regional visits in November for school bus operators to come and meet with us to get a general update on Project 2018 and, for those that wish, to discuss the initial advice that has been provided.

The scheduled dates for the forums in November will be:

- Monday 14 – Huonville (PCYC)
- Tuesday 15 – Scottsdale (Library)
- Wednesday 16 – Launceston (Able Tasman Motel)
- Thursday 17 – Ulverstone (Beachway Motel)
- Wednesday 23 – Sorell (Library)
- Thursday 24 - New Norfolk (Library)

A general briefing and opportunity for questions will be held in the morning (10am for a 10.30am start) and then individual appointments (25 minutes) may be booked from 11.30am onwards.

So that we can arrange bookings and venues, if you wish to attend either the general briefing or one of the individual sessions, please contact Kamilla Martin on 6166 3459 to make an appointment. Members of TasBus are welcome to have the General Manager attend their discussions, but please just let Kamilla know when booking.

If you cannot make any of these meetings, you can still talk to Andrew Mullen at any time, or make an appointment to come to Hobart to discuss your advice directly.

Student fares 2017

New student fares will apply for 2017. Effective 1 January 2017, the maximum student fare will increase to \$1.70 and the maximum multi-trip/smartcard/greencard discounted ticket will be \$1.36.

Student bus passes expiring in 2016

We are about to commence our yearly campaign to remind students that if their Bus Pass for Free Travel expires in 2016 they will need to reapply to remain eligible for free travel to/from school.

Like last year, posters will soon be issued to all fare-paying operators, to be displayed in buses as a reminder to students.

The poster will encourage students to use the online system to submit their application, as this will be the fastest way to receive approval for free travel.

Students who apply for a free travel bus pass between 16 November 2016 and 6 January 2017 will receive their bus pass before the start of the 2017 school year. Applications received after 6 January 2017 may take up to 4 weeks to process.

Students who currently have an expiring free student bus pass and will be travelling on Metro or Tassielink in 2017, should not throw away their current card. If eligible for free travel in 2017, this entitlement will be applied to their existing card – they will not receive a new card.

Duty of Care

There has been a few incidents lately which has given us cause to remind you of the duty of care you owe to students while travelling on your buses. We ask that you please remind your drivers that this duty of care extends to them as well.

Roadworks

As most operators would be aware, there are currently quite a number of roadworks projects underway across the State. In some cases this is causing significant service delays. With college exams starting soon, if you believe any roadworks on your route may impact your ability to deliver students to school on time, please let us know via email at ptscontracts@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

A message from Treasury – Caltex fuel discounts

The Tasmanian Government has established a contract for the supply of petroleum products with Caltex Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd, which commenced on 1 January 2014. As the primary supplier of fuel to the Tasmanian Government, Caltex, together with its business partners Bennett's Petroleum and Caltas, provides an extensive fuel supply network across the State.

Caltex is a major fuel provider within Tasmania, providing fuel cards (Starcards) to a range of both government and corporate customers. Fuel card products available under the Tasmanian Government contract include unleaded, premium unleaded, Vortex unleaded, low sulphur diesel, Vortex diesel and LPG. Caltex offers competitive pricing across Tier One sites which are located in all major regions within the State. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged that your organisation consider transitioning to Caltex, if practical to do so.

Customer wishing to obtain further information in relation to the Government's petroleum products contract, including site details, pricing and products can contact Wendi Bulfin at the Department of Treasury and Finance on 6166 4219 or via email at wendi.bulfin@treasury.tas.gov.au

Changes to the bulk fuel purchase scheme

A reminder that access to the Bulk Fuel Purchase Scheme through the Tasmanian Government is available to operators on contracts that provide a student regular passenger transport service. For each student-only contract, one fuel card for each bus used to service that contract can be approved, along with one additional fuel card per contract for a support vehicle.

All fuel cards issued by State Growth must be used strictly in connection with the provision of a student-only service.

Please be advised from November 2016 there will be an increase to fees related to the Scheme, in line with the administrative costs incurred by State Growth in administering access for bus operators.

The annual fee will increase to \$40 per active card.

Replacement fuel cards will be charged at \$40 per replacement card.

New cards will remain at a cost of \$40 per card.

All current participants of the Scheme will soon receive a letter containing a list of the active fuel cards in your possession, in preparation for the annual fee to be processed in November 2016.

Should you have any questions in relation to the Bulk Fuel Purchase Scheme, please contact Passenger Transport at ptscontracts@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Bus cost model index (BCMI)

The BCMI has been calculated for [October 2016](#) and is **118.0**

Capital rates

The Capital Payment rates have been calculated for the quarter commencing **October 2016**. Please consider these rates before making changes to your contract.

For all fare-paying operators, the rates applicable to your monthly contract payment can be found on your Statement of Payment.

Contract Type	July 2016	October 2016
Urban Fringe Student Only	\$1.72	\$1.72
Rural Fare Paying	\$1.72	\$1.72
Long Distance Student Only	\$1.72	\$1.72
Long Distance General Access	\$2.86	\$2.86
Urban Fringe General Access	\$2.86	\$2.86
Urban	\$1.01	\$1.01
Town	\$1.01	\$1.01

Contact us

Should you wish to contact us with any query or concern relating to your contract, please email Passenger Transport at ptscontracts@stategrowth.tas.gov.au or phone **03 6166 3343**.