

Kāpiti Coast
Older Persons' Council
A Voice For Our Community

INFORM - ADVOCATE - EMPOWER

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council welcomes this opportunity to comment on the Kāpiti Bus Review, and appreciates being part of the consultation that informed these proposals.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council has a responsibility to speak for over 25% of the Kāpiti population, twice the national average. Many of those people depend on public transport, and others are getting to the stage when they are losing confidence in driving themselves and need the alternative of reliable public transport.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council notes its appreciation of the current service, which is generally reliable, efficient and operated in a congenial manner.

In that context, Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council makes these submissions on the Kāpiti Bus Review:

Paraparaumu

"Routes 250, 260, 261 and 262 would all travel directly to Paraparaumu Station and depart via Coastlands - quicker for catching a train and more convenient for returning home after shopping."

The concern for the Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council in this proposal is not only for shoppers wanting to patronise Coastlands, but also for those wishing, in many cases needing, to access the services of the Kāpiti Coast District Council, the Paraparaumu Library and the Kāpiti Community Centre. The bus stop by the Kāpiti Coast District Council is essential to access these services, and not stopping there on the way to the Railway Station is a restriction on the access of citizens to the Kāpiti civic centre.

The proposal as it stands would mean that citizens would have to walk (from Paraparaumu Railway station) 500 meters to the Kāpiti Coast District Council, 600 meters to the Paraparaumu Library and 750 meters to the Kāpiti Community Centre. For many of the older population, those distances are simply not feasible - particularly with the stairs or ramp required to be negotiated to walk from the Paraparaumu Railway Station to Coastlands.

If the stop by Moana Road is used, the distances are still impractical for many: 570 m to Community Centre (via Ngahina Street after crossing Kāpiti Road at the Rimu Road pedestrian crossing), 400 m to KCDC (along Rimu Road) and 500 m to Paraparaumu Library.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council understands the driver for the proposal, as in some cases bus services are struggling to meet the train timetable. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council submits that the new timetable should formalise what is the current practice with coach services that are struggling to reach the station in time to meet the train; go straight to the station, and then do a loop through Coastlands, along Rimu Road, and back along Kāpiti Road to the Railway Station. An advantage to this proposal is that people would depart the bus on the western side of Rimu Road, and not have to cross Rimu Road.

"Route 260 (Raumati Beach to Paraparaumu) would no longer run the 'loop' around Matai, Princeton and Hillcrest Roads off-peak. Only one bus stop would be affected and an alternative stop is just three minutes' walk away."

Our main concern with this proposal is the assumption that the alternative stop - which is reported to be an extra 500 meters distance - is "just three minutes' walk away". It may be for a young fit person, but that is not the case for the many, and increasing proportion of people in our community who have restricted mobility. The three minutes estimate is arrogant and flies in the face of reality for many people.

"Route 262 (Paraparaumu Beach to Paraparaumu) off-peak trips would no longer travel via the Kapiti Health Centre, a stop which is under utilised. Instead, there would be a daily dial-a-ride shuttle service to and from Paraparaumu Station which would also provide door to door service to and from Paekakariki, Paraparaumu East, Raumati South and Otaihanga. People can continue to access the Health Centre by regular bus services that stop nearby on Kapiti Road."

We contest that the stop on Kapiti Road is nearby the Kāpiti Health Centre. It is almost 400 meters, and that is not nearby for some people, particularly many of those requiring the services of the Kāpiti Health Centre.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council supports the proposal for a dial-a-ride shuttle service Kāpiti Health Centre, but stresses that it must be timely and reliable. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council requests further consultation on this proposal when it is in operation to ensure it is fit for purpose. It is concerned that numbers taking up this offer will vary on each trip, and can't see how the dial-a-ride shuttle could service a large number of requests without disrupting the timetable severely. And - as some (too many) of our bus stops do not have seating - it is hard for older persons and especially those with a level disability to stand waiting at a bus stop.

"Route 270 (Paraparaumu East) would be discontinued and replaced by a school bus direct to Kapiti College and a new dial-a-ride shuttle introduced on Mondays and Thursdays that will pick residents up from outside their homes and take them to the following locations: Paraparaumu Station, Coastlands and Kapiti Health Centre."

Our comments above on the dial-a-ride shuttle also apply to this proposal.

"Routes 251 and 263 (Paekakariki and Otaihanga dial-a-ride services) would have their days of operation adjusted in light of their relatively low demand. The Paekakariki service would operate Tuesdays and Fridays and the Otaihanga service on Wednesdays."

This adjustment seems severe. The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council suggests there is a chicken and egg situation here, and that better publicity of the bus timetable should enhance use. A suggestion would be regular advertisement (say once a month) in either the Kāpiti Observer or Kāpiti News to better inform those who might be interested in using the bus. The demand is potentially there - the train service is good, but does require a bit of a walk from the houses spread out over 2 km of the railway line/shoreline.

Reliability may also be an issue - one of our members saw a woman hailing the bus - and it just drove by her in the Paekakariki Village.

Otaki and Waikanae

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council welcomes the new Route 281 in Waikanae, and sees the logic in 280 for commuters.

The Kāpiti Coast Older Persons' Council considers the Otaki proposals are an attempt to deal with an urgent problem in Otaki and its connections with the wider Kāpiti community, and urges continuing consultation with the Otaki community in order to better serve the community needs. The Otaki community often feels isolated and excluded from Greater Wellington.