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#### **“Kick-start” bus service fails to ignite**

25 June 2003

Lack of patronage has meant the end of a two-year bus service trial connecting Upper Hutt and Porirua, says the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The Haywards Connection bus service has been running between the two cities via the Haywards (SH 58) at peak times on weekdays.

“The service was introduced in response to requests from Upper Hutt employers having difficulty in recruiting workers from Porirua. But it’s not been well used – with an average of 3.4 passengers per trip – for its two year trial,” says Greater Wellington transport service manager Anthony Cross.

The service, operated by Mana Coach Services, was funded by Greater Wellington and government transport funding agency Transfund New Zealand. It came under a “kick-start” funding scheme which pays for a two-year trial. After this time patronage is supposed to have built up to a sustainable level.

“More people were starting to use the route but patronage wasn’t growing fast enough for the service to be sustainable. It’s a shame to end the trial service but there just aren’t enough people using it,” Mr Cross says.

The service will operate for the last time on Friday, 8 August.

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