

Report 16.282
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Committee Sustainable Transport Committee
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Hybrid bus trial

1. Purpose

To present the findings of the Volvo hybrid bus trial undertaken in January and February this year.

2. Background

As part of its fleet transition strategy, GWRC has indicated a preference for low emission vehicles which includes hybrid buses. As Volvo had a hybrid bus in New Zealand for demonstration purposes, GWRC together with Newlands Coach Services were fortunate to be able to arrange for the bus to come to Wellington to be made available to the public and to allow an in-service trial. The bus has been manufactured for the Australian market.

The trial was made possible by Volvo, Motor Track Distributors (NZ) Ltd and Newlands Coach Services.

3. The trial and outcomes

A report detailing the full details of the trial is included as **Attachment 1**.

In summary, the bus ran over 5000km on normal services on the Newlands and Churton Park routes over a period of 31 days. Newlands Coach Services monitored the amount of fuel used by the hybrid bus and also the fuel used by its fleet of diesel buses operating on the Newlands and Churton Park routes during the trial period.

The results showed that the hybrid bus's fuel consumption was 40.8% less per kilometer run than the comparison fleet operating on the same routes during the trial period.

Other findings were that the bus performed reliably and coped with the hills while under full load without difficulty. Customer reaction was very positive and the drivers reported that the bus was easy to drive.

4. Next steps

A paper is being prepared for the next meeting of the Committee on a low emission bus strategy. The strategy will include a proposal to tender a twelve month trial of two electric buses.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5.1 Engagement

The public were engaged as part of the hybrid bus demonstration and as passengers during the trial period. It is recommended that the Council prepare a news release on the outcome of the trial.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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Attachment 1: Report on the Hybrid bus trial