



## EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



# buchan bus 'n' freight

LOCAL ECONOMY

**After years of hard work, study, time and money, subsidy negotiations, a route and timetable change and disability exemptions; Buchan Bus 'n' Freight now provides a subsidised Public Transport and Freight service, whilst providing local employment.**

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Buchan Bus 'n' Freight has been operating public transport from Gelantipy to Bairnsdale since 18th December 2003. Public Transport had been lacking in Buchan and district for around 45 years, until Drew Beaven decided to start a bus and freight service at full commercial risk.

After a short period it was discovered that the service was unviable without government subsidy. After several years of hard work, study, personal time and money, many subsidy negotiations, a route and timetable change and disability exemptions; Buchan Bus 'n' Freight now provides a subsidised Public Transport and Freight service, whilst providing local employment.

Buchan Bus 'n' Freight is a unique demonstration project for Victoria. The service incorporates a freight capacity to provide essential supplies to remote areas, whilst acting as a medical link between bush nursing centres and Hospital.

As this is a first of its kind service, there is no template to work from, so the direction of the service is really determined by patronage and the enthusiasm of the operator, local councils and government departments to see the project succeed.

The bus travels from Karoonda Park in Gelantipy along a 136km route, via WTree, Buchan, Nowa Nowa, Lakes Entrance and towns through to Bairnsdale. Patronage and popularity for the service has increased over the years, seeing a doubling in passenger numbers from its conception to present day operation.

The service has become an integral part of the local community for both personal and business customers.

At present the bus operates on Wednesdays and Fridays (excluding Public Holidays). Timetables are posted at bus stops and are available from the bus, train station and various outlets. Bookings can be made on (03) 5155 0356.

