

Community Vehicle Sub-committee report – AGM, 2015



Report:

2015 was a huge year in the history of the Community Vehicle with the completion of the transition of the administration of the service to Easy Transport Manly Warringah Pittwater

From July 1, Easy Transport Manly Warringah Pittwater commenced operating the Scotland Island Community Vehicle- SIRA continues to co-ordinate the drivers and Pittwater Council is sourcing and maintaining the vehicle.

Background:

Since the inception of the Scotland Island Community Vehicle, SIRA has received funding from the NSW State Government and support from Pittwater Council who maintain the vehicle and lease it on our behalf.

Due to changes in legislation, from June 2015 the compliance requirements for the Transport for NSW funding changed significantly and were clearly outside what SIRA (or other small community organizations could manage).

Without the funding, the costs of trips would have gone up hugely and the recommendation was that SIRA partner with a larger community transport organization to manage the compliance and handle the funding.

After some research, we found that Easy Transport Manly Warringah Pittwater, being a large and local organization would be suitable.

We then worked closely with Transport for NSW, Pittwater Council and Easy Transport to develop an agreement that would allow the service to continue with no disruption or shift in costs.

We found the management and board of Easy Transport very supportive and, despite the significant differences between our operational model and their normal operations we were able to agree a model and sign an MOU in time for the June 30 deadline.

Key points:

- For customers, there is no change in process or cost other than slight change in the concession form.
- For drivers, the model is the same but they are now “employed” by ETMWP.
- SIRA still manages the drivers (Graeme Crayford) and the Vehicle logistics such as service /cleaning (Cass Gye)

Process:

- Joint ETMWP & SIRA branding on all documents & vehicle
- ETMWP becomes the “employer” of the drivers and hold all license/health/police check etc data.
- SIRA provides aggregated trip records and details of any concession trips to ETMWP monthly.
- ETMWP receives the TfNSW funding and pays SIRA on invoice according to the agreed budget.

Other issues

The other significant issue for the year was the impact of the long closure of the road to the top of the island meaning that some of the residents in most need of the service were unable to access it. This also resulted in a decrease in the number of trips compared to previous periods – however with the restoration of the road this has returned to normal levels.