

Better bus connections to Melbourne Airport

Context

- Tullamarine Airport and Business Park hosts over 20,000 jobs
- Over 80% of local employees drive to work
- It is currently served by four bus routes, but most run once an hour for less than half the day

Issues

- The precinct relies on shift workers, and shift times are not supported by the bus service span
- The Airport Rail Project will not improve connectivity for local employees
- Employees living in Sunbury and Craigieburn need better public transport connections
- Improving these bus services will improve access to jobs and services for those who need it most

Recommendations

1. Create a new service between Craigieburn and Melbourne Airport via Aitken Boulevard
2. Rationalise existing routes to create a service between Craigieburn and Melbourne Airport via Mickleham Road

Rationale

*Craigieburn is a key employee catchment area for Melbourne Airport. A direct service would eliminate the need for multiple transfers
In addition, a more penetrative service is needed to improve connectivity for Craigieburn residents to Melbourne Airport*

3. Improve service levels on Route 479 to Sunbury
4. Extend Route 482 to Sunbury

Sunbury is the top employee catchment area for Melbourne Airport. Current services are too infrequent and do not directly connect to Sunbury's residential areas

5. Extend Route 561 to Melbourne Airport

Establishes a direct east-west connection between the Melbourne Airport and La Trobe NEICs. Creates new potential employee catchment areas for both NEICs

6. Introduce a direct shuttle from Broadmeadows Station to Melbourne Airport (or implement the Suburban Rail Loop Bus - a rapid, direct service from Melbourne Airport to Box Hill)

Strengthens the rail connection to Melbourne Airport, reducing travel time by 7-9 minutes from Broadmeadows Station

7. Extend Route 490 to Melbourne Airport via Tullamarine Business Park

Adds significant employment destinations to Route 490 and improves public transport connectivity to Tullamarine Business Park

8. Run SmartBus 902 to Melbourne Airport and SmartBus 901 to Airport West shopping centre

Improves employee access to Melbourne Airport

Potential benefits

By improving public transport's attractiveness in the area, there should be:

- An increase in public transport trips per day
- A decrease of up to 7,000 vehicle kilometres per day

