



Ballina Shire Advocate

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Leave the car at home and take the bus

COMMUTERS to Lismore from Ballina, Lennox Head and Byron Bay will be able to work, read, catch up on TV or just look at the scenery on their journey to work thanks to a new commuter bus trial.

Social Futures' transport development officer Alex Lewers said the trial was put forward by the Lismore Sustainable Transport Group and championed by Lismore MP Thomas George.

"This is a great win for commuters," he said.

"This will be a cheap and

direct service taking in the major employers and education institutions at a time that will be convenient for commuting."

The new service, which will be delivered by Blanch's Bus Company, will run on a six-month trial.

The service will depart from Byron Bay and pick up at Lennox Head (Beachfront Bus Zone) at 7.40am and Ballina (Tamar Street) at 8am and arrive at the Lismore Transit Centre at 8.40am stopping at Lismore Base Hospital and Southern Cross University along the

way. The return trip will depart Lismore Transit Centre at 5.15pm and follow the same route.

"The commuter bus will cost \$6.60 for a single adult fare outside of Lismore, with usual concessions applying. Regular commuters can also purchase an unlimited travel, daily pass for \$12 or a weekly unlimited travel Freedom Pass for \$36," Mr Lewers said.

"For five-day-a-week commuters, the weekly pass equates to \$3.60 per trip, that's much cheaper than using the car for the same

trip. What's more, you can read a book, answer emails, catch up on Facebook and while you're doing it save mileage on your car."

For more information and to view the timetable, visit www.goingplaces.org.au/new-commuter-bus-service-lismore or phone Blanch's on (02) 6686 2144.

For anyone wishing to discuss public transport and interested in joining a transport working group in their area, contact Mr Lewers on 0402 134 311 or email alex.lewers@socialfutures.org.au.