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Burdekin Shire Council – media release

BUS SERVICE COMING

A REGULAR bus service between Ayr and Home Hill will be established later this year, with the help of State Government funding.

The grant will also allow the Burdekin Shire Council to appoint a part-time transport coordinator.

Burdekin Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said one of the coordinator's priorities would be to establish an Ayr-Home Hill bus service.

“We'd be looking at running the service maybe twice a week on a trial basis. It won't be a free service, but it will be subsidised,” Cr McLaughlin said.

She said the transport coordinator would conduct a detailed survey of local transport needs to determine what gaps needed to be filled in the district's transport services.

A more immediate role would be to link residents with existing transport providers.

“In many cases, people simply aren't aware of what transport services are already out there,” Cr McLaughlin said.

“The transport coordinator will be able to help people get from A to B by providing information about the various services which are already up and running.”

The transport project is being funded through a \$120,000 two-year grant from the Department of Communities Blueprint for the Bush - Building Rural Links Initiative. It builds upon the Burdekin Community Coordinated Transport Plan which was completed two years ago.

Cr McLaughlin said the aim was to optimise existing transport services and not to simply start up a series of new services.

“We believe that the key is to link existing needs with existing services, while at the same time conducting a proper study to find out what gaps exist and how best to fill them,” she said.

“It is hoped that, in most cases, our existing service providers could fill any gaps identified.”

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