



# Media Release

## Community Transport for Charlton

7 July 2017

The Charlton community recently hosted a public meeting chaired by Mr Richard Garlick, CEO of Sun Assist in Mildura to assess the need for a Community transport project.

Following that meeting a working group was set up to investigate what type of service model would work for Charlton. The working group, including Mr Neil Cossar, Kevin Willey, Maretia Doughty, Jamie Start, Garry Larmour, with assistance from Joy Freeman, met with Buloke Shire Council's Community Services Coordinator Mark Remnant to develop a plan of action.

"We are excited at the prospect of this project providing a much needed service to the Charlton community. The recent meeting clearly showed that there is a need for locally relevant community transport here in Charlton. We are asking interested residents to contact Mark Remnant at the Shire about working with us to develop a model that works for our community", said Lions Club President Neil Cossar.

Buloke Shire Council ceased to provide this service in 2015 and for some time individual Charlton residents have provided transport for neighbours and people in need of assistance to attend medical appointments, taking people to regional centres and Melbourne.

Local businessman Jamie Start highlighted the impact of transport on young people in Charlton saying, "Taking no action may result in more of our young people and families leaving Charlton because they can't access social and education activities, this will add to the impact on our older residents needing help to get to medical appointments."

Buloke Shire Council has lead discussions that resulted in the formation of the Mallee Local Transport Forum.

"The Forum was formed to provide support for locally initiated projects and to utilise the regional network and partnerships that Council could bring to the table", said Forum Chair, Cr Ellen White.

Mr Cossar concluded, "An initial working group has been formed and further consultation is planned in the coming months. We appeal to all interested community members to contact Mark Remnant on 5478 0175 to find out how you can assist us to get this project up and running."

### End release

For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520 or [tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au](mailto:tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au)