

23

Raglan

BETTER BUSES FOR RAGLAN

Presenting a 250+ signature petition to
Waikato Regional Council



What the petition asks for

250+ signatures asking Waikato Regional Council to:



Protect what we have

Maintain the Raglan–Hamilton East service. Don't remove or reduce it.



Increase frequency

Move toward hourly buses, running approximately 7am to 9pm.



Improve connections

Link better with other bus & train services where hourly isn't yet possible.



A local Raglan service

Hourly local buses linking Raglan's suburbs, as approved by council in 2021.

Full petition: “Improve & Protect Raglan Public Transport” — live on [Change.org](#)

Kia ora tātou

Who we are



250+

people have signed the petition
we're presenting today

Our petition, live on [Change.org](https://change.org)

change.org

My petitions

Search

Improve & Protect Raglan Public Transport

The issue

We, the undersigned, call on Waikato Regional Council to protect & improve public transport services between Raglan & Hamilton.

We ask Council to:

1. Maintain the Raglan-Hamilton East bus services & ensure it is not removed or reduced in the future.
2. Increase the frequency of buses between Raglan & Hamilton, ideally to hourly, with services operating approximately from 7am to 9pm.
3. Improve connections with other bus & train services, particularly where an hourly Raglan-Hamilton service cannot yet be provided.
4. Implement an hourly local Raglan bus service connecting different areas & suburbs of Raglan, as approved by Waikato District Council in 2021. This could operate using a smaller bus or van where appropriate.

Reliable & connected public transport is essential for residents, workers, students, families, visitors & people who do not have access to a car.

We ask Council to consider these requests & work towards a more frequent, reliable & connected public transport network for Raglan.

What "better buses" means

A service people can rely on — for everyday life, and for the visitors we depend on



School

Including Hamilton
East



Work

Access to jobs in
Hamilton



Health

Hospital & medical
appointments



Whānau

Visiting friends &
family



Tourism

Visitors need it too →



Growing numbers

of elderly residents are losing their driver's licences to failing health, with no reliable bus to fall back on.

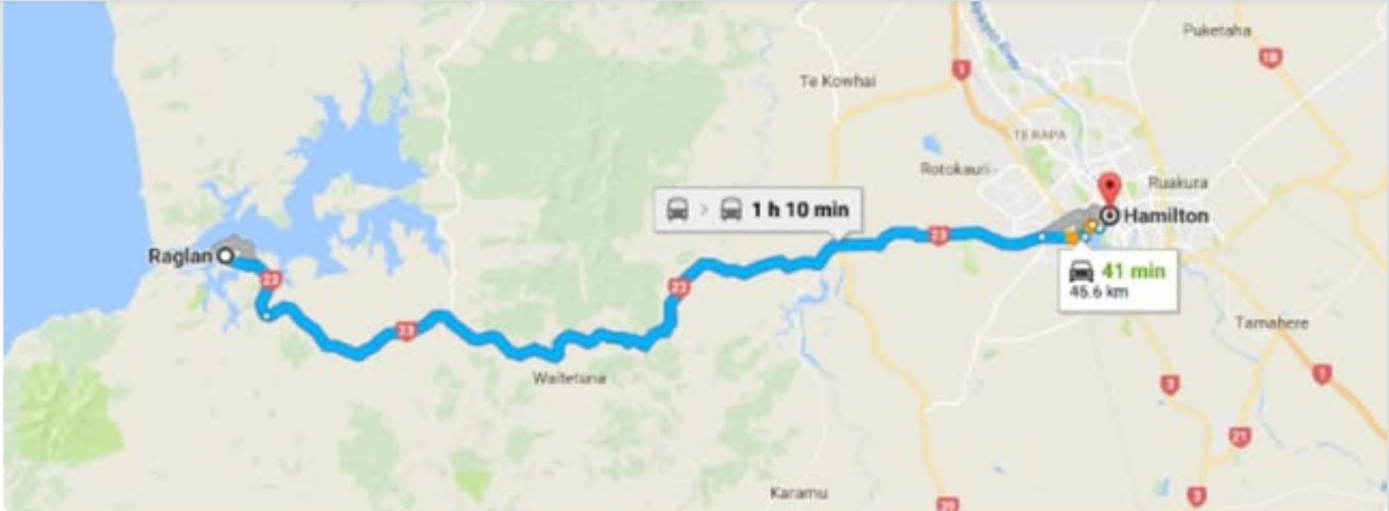
Filling the gap ourselves

When there's no bus, the community makes its own arrangements



773

members in the “Raglan-Hamilton Commuters” Facebook group — created to organise lifts the bus service doesn't provide.



Raglan-Hamilton Commuters

 ...

Kia ora,
Is anyone driving to auckland in the upcoming days and would be able to give me a ride, please?
Happy to pay
Thank you!

👍 1 💬 🚩

 Answer as Sandra 🗨️ 😊 📷 📺 📄

 ...

Hi commuters, my son has a course Tuesday and Thursday 5-7pm in Nawton. Is there anyone travelling into or back from Hamilton around these times (slightly earlier or later works as well). Thank you.

👍 1 💬 🚩

 Answer as Sandra 🗨️ 😊 📷 📺 📄

 ...

Hey all . Hubby needs a lift into Hamilton to catch the train or all the way into Auckland Wednesday morning around 5am . Sharing costs

👍 2 💬 🚩

 Answer as Sandra 🗨️ 😊 📷 📺 📄

About

To facilitate long term and one-off carpooling for Raglan residents who work or study in Hamilton, and to share any other information relevant to this group.

Private
Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Visible
Anyone can find this group.

Raglan, New Zealand

A tourist town under pressure

- Summer brings queues at the single-lane bridge, long lines of traffic, and nowhere to park.
- Tourists have real difficulty getting to Raglan in the first place — or cut their trips short because there's no bus back to Hamilton.

FIVE YEARS OF INACTION

Five years ago, council found a local bus worthwhile and was willing to fund it at \$100,000 a year. It still hasn't happened — and the need has only grown since. A solution is overdue.



The World Surf League drew thousands of people to Raglan.
Photo: CHRISTEL YARDLEY / WAIKATO TIMES

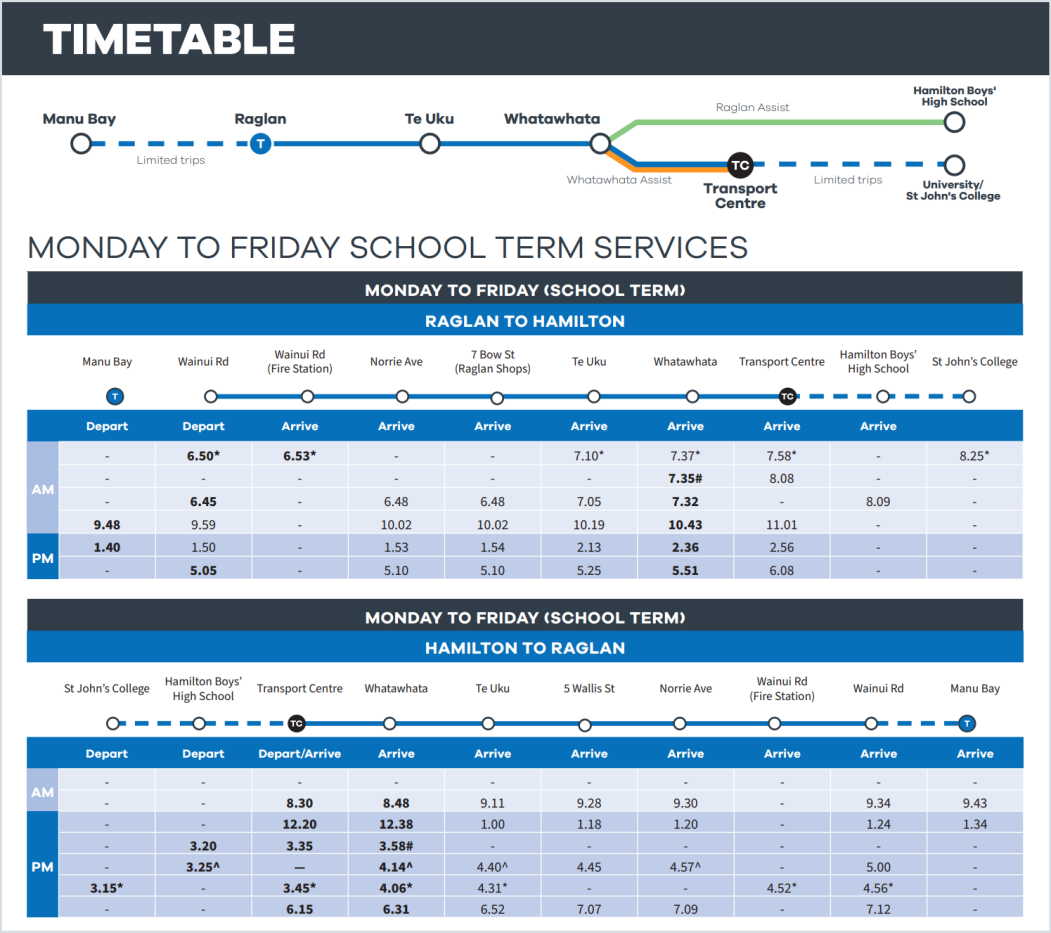


Hitchhiking to Raglan is a common workaround when there's no bus



The weekday reality

Raglan ↔ Hamilton — the full Route 23 school-term weekday timetable



Source: Busit Route 23 timetable, Waikato Regional Council

The weekend reality

Hamilton Transport Centre ⇌ Manu Bay, Raglan — this is the entire weekend service



8:45 am

Transport Centre → Raglan

9:55 am



11:30 am

Transport Centre → Raglan

12:40 pm



3:00 pm

Transport Centre → Raglan

4:10 pm

Three round trips. That's it — for the whole weekend, every weekend.

Support crosses party lines



At a local candidates' meeting, contenders were asked to show support for keeping the Raglan–Hamilton East bus service, which is proposed for removal. This is what they said.

The evening gap

No late buses mean no dinner, no movies, no shows — unless you drive



People finishing work at 5pm wait around for the last bus and don't get home until after 7pm.

Want dinner, a movie, or a show? You have to drive — and then can't safely drink and drive — or stay overnight in Hamilton.

Evening buses would benefit people and businesses in both Raglan and Hamilton, by allowing more opportunities to spend longer in each centre.

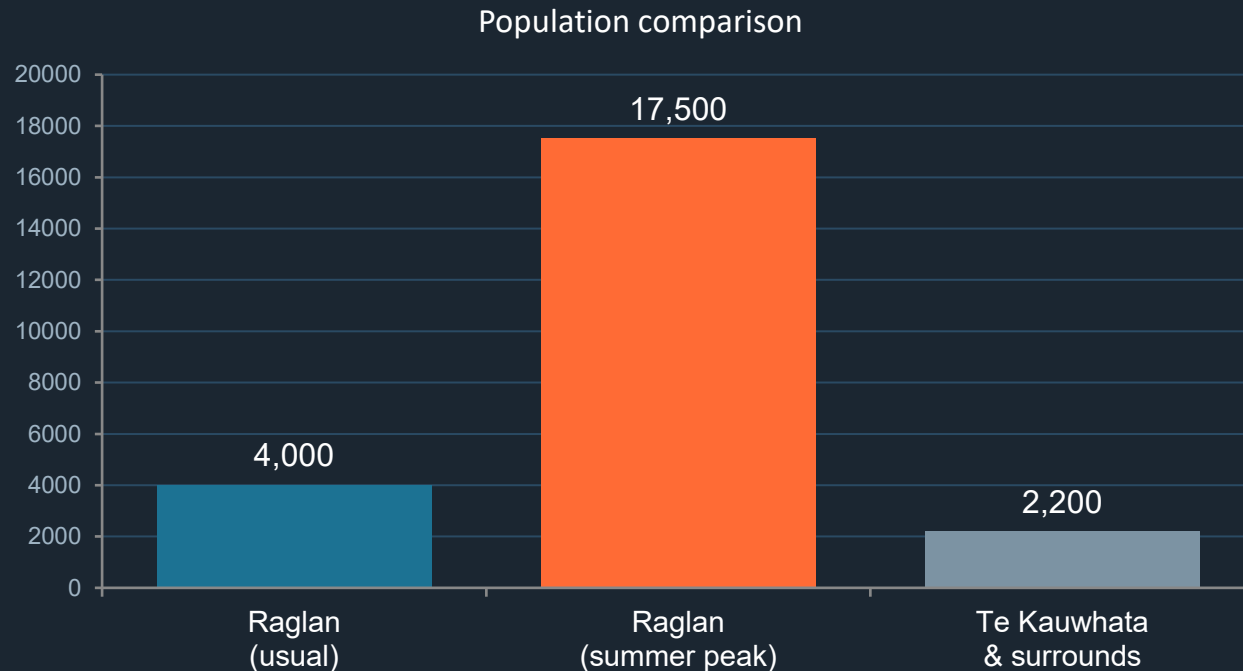
The economic cost

- Go Raglan has identified transport as a real barrier to work, both locally and in the surrounding area.
- Without a suitable bus, commuting from Hamilton is expensive.
- That cost is a real contributor to staff shortages for Raglan employers.



Raglan's real summer population

A seasonal surge council's own numbers missed when comparing Raglan to towns like Te Kauwhata



**Raglan's summer population reaches an estimated 15,000–20,000 (Waikato District Council); the bar shows the 17,500 midpoint.*

**4,000 →
12,000**

Raglan's usual population has already grown from 3,000, and is forecast to reach 12,000.

300–400%

population increase every summer, versus Te Kauwhata's steady 2,200 residents.

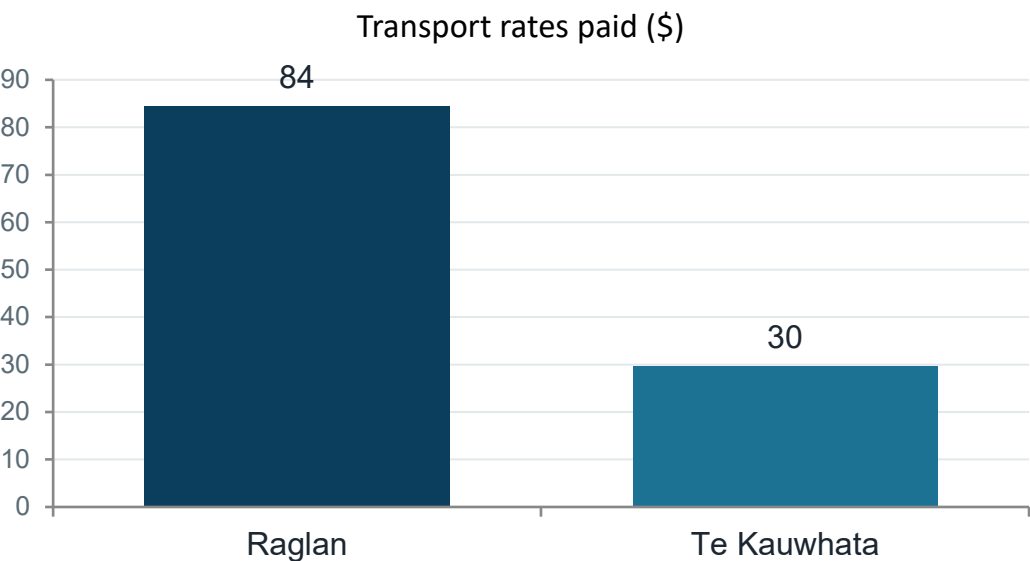
#1

highest passengers per bus of any Waikato route, despite this scale of need.

"Visitors to the town in summer increase the town's population by around 300–400 per cent." — Waikato District Council

Raglan vs Te Kauwhata

Te Kauwhata gets hourly buses from 2027. Raglan is still waiting.



Raglan pays nearly 3x more per ratepayer, with higher ridership — yet waits years longer for improved service.

#1

highest passengers per bus of any Waikato route

lowest

subsidy per passenger of any route radiating from Hamilton

No

Structure Plan for Raglan — unlike every other growing Waikato town

In council's own words



“Reliable and efficient transport is the backbone of regional connectivity and economic growth. We help shape the future of our towns and city by developing mass transit solutions, cutting emissions and reducing reliance on low-occupancy vehicles.”

— Waikato Regional Council

We'd like to see these words in action in Raglan, and look forward to a time when catching public transport is simply the norm.