



New buses positive move for jobseekers

Transport boosts seasonal workers' opportunities

By LUCY JOHANNSOHN

JOBSEEKERS will be one step closer to finding work with the addition of two new transport to work buses.

Launched yesterday by Economic Development Minister Michael Aird, the 12-seater buses are designed to help fill hundreds of upcoming job vacancies in the vegetable industry.

"One of Tasmania's largest job search centres, Choose Employment, has taken the initiative to run a transport service for disadvantaged jobseekers in the North-West," he said.

"It will be supported by a \$95,000 grant through the government's Workforce Participation Program."

Forth vegetable producer Field Fresh will be looking for about 200 seasonal workers in coming weeks.

Choose Employment general manager Grant Coker-Williams said many of those vacancies would go begging without the new buses.

"We're acutely aware that while there is a lot of employment here, employers have great difficulty getting seasonal workers," he said.

"One of the main

problems is being able to get to work particularly in regions such as this where public transport is not what it needs to be."

Mr Coker-Williams said with some of the Coast's largest employers operating outside major population centres, many jobseekers were passed over if they did not have their own transport.

Several workers have already signed on to use the buses which will also provide work for drivers.

Mr Coker-Williams said the buses would be run free of charge to clients for their first few weeks on the

job.

"After that, they would be required to pay a fare but also by that time we hope they might also find people to car pool with," he said.

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INITIATIVE: Choose Employment general manager Grant Coker-Williams (left) and Economic Development Minister Michael Aird at the launch of Choose Employment's Travel to Work service yesterday. Picture: Jason Hollister.