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MEDIA RELEASE
Improved inter-regional public transport for regional NSW
Inquiry report released

Member for Orange, Mr Andrew Gee, as Chair of the State and Regional Development Committee, yesterday tabled the Committee's report on Inter-Regional Public Transport in the NSW Parliament.

Mr Gee said, "The report makes a total of 31 recommendations to enhance the standard of inter-regional public transport, with a number of those recommendations relevant to the Orange region.

"It's a big state that we live in, and public transport is an issue close to the hearts of people in regional communities. This was clearly seen in the high level of interest in the work of the Committee. In all we received over 150 submissions."

Mr Gee continued, "Throughout this inquiry, regional residents have stressed the importance of inter-regional public transport, not only to the quality of their day-to-day lives, but also to the long-term social and economic growth of the regional areas that they live in.

"It is therefore vital that inter-regional public transport be regarded and administered as an essential service for regional NSW. Many of the report's recommendations are intended to enhance the services that NSW TrainLink provides."

The recommendations include, amongst others:

- improvements to the frequency, reliability and timetabling of NSW TrainLink's services;
- connecting regions without current access to public transport networks;
- extending coach services to Jindabyne (year round);
- broadening the scope of community transport in regional areas;
- more integrated ticketing;
- increased passenger comfort and improvements to on-board services;
- identifying where express services can be introduced;
- acquiring rolling stock that incorporates tilt train technology;
- enhancing the capacity of NSW TrainLink services to carry bicycles;
- expanding the range of rail and coach tourism packages; and
- improving connectivity between rail and coach services.

"Building stronger inter-regional public transport links helps build stronger regional communities. Anything we can do to help bridge the tyranny of distance that many regional communities experience, we should do," said Mr Gee.

The NSW Government will formally respond to the report within six months.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/stateandregionaldevelopment.

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