

**Submission
No 72**

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Name: Mr Bob Manning

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Dear Members

This submission is submitted in order of the reference alphabet points :

A Countrylink services can be improved by providing RAIL services, eg Railcars.

Railcars rather than buses from Bathurst to Lithgow

Cowra to Lithgow

Griffith to Junee-Wagga-Albury , rather than by Bus/coach.

Comment-passengers want to travel by rail between major centres. West Australia has proved this.

Marketing is the key to success where the people want it.

B Network linkages can be improved by not forcing/directing passengers to travel by bus where the train parallels the service.

An example is Cootamundra to Canberra via Yass.

Passengers transfer from the XPT at Cootamundra to the bus for Canberra rather than transferring at Yass. Thus

they endure road traffic conditions rather than a leisurely rail ride to Yass & a shorter Bus trip to Canberra.

C Light freight should naturally be carried by Countrylink. The drivers of McCafferty & Greyhound Busses do with little problem.

By Rail the conductor could do it.

D Tourism can be better undertaken by Countrylink having a range of Packages to country towns for their Festivals or otherwise and reverse Packages for people to travel to a City for their shows. No doubt these packages would be organized with hotels, tickets etc.

There is no reason you cannot beat bus charters, and skim the cream .

E Interrégional travel can be increased by better timed trains, both Customer focussed departure time & faster trains.

Coordination of transfers could also be sharpened except in exceptional cases.

F In Rural areas there is often space on Schoolbuses which should be utilized.

Conversely, There are Rural trains which could be conveying school students.

Income is the profit motivation.

G Local Council can certainly help by , Discussion groups, surveys & feedback.

Over time people have bought cars to survive the job availability by driving , but the fuel market is changing and it is cheaper to travel as part of a group. Beat Community transport and link towns to centres such as Albury for specialists and shopping days.

H Explorer type railcars which can be 1 man operated possibly with a conductor to be Security. Help Advisor & Fare/ticket issuer using credit card only Systems. Please note Vicrail Shepparton to Melbourne can be either internet booked or paid for on train.

I understand the ICE train in Germany can be paid on train, and the same also in Sweden.

Extra note : If you show a ticket to get on the Train, It is an inefficiency to show the ticket on rural travel to get off the train. Furthermore not being able to use the return ticket to go back to your suburban hotel the next Day is a pain to the passenger.

Submitted in good faith. Yes I do where reasonable, travel by Countrylink .

Bob Manning