

**Submission  
No 50**

## **INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

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**Date Received:** 14/05/2012

There is a joke in ORANGE which says "you can travel anywhere you like from Orange as long as its Sydney".

However, trying to travel to Sydney has become somewhat of a nightmare:

I am an old woman, + walk with  
a stick.

Six weeks before travel, I tried the plane - booked out - Rex Airlines has the monopoly - small planes, not very comfortable & very expensive.  
So, being a part pensioner, I booked with Country Link - this entails a long drawn out journey: - Bus from Orange to Lithgow

train from Lithgow to Sydney Central.

But, it doesn't matter what day of the ~~month~~<sup>week</sup> what week of the month or months of the year - there is always track work going on.

this meant: - Bus Orange / Lithgow  
Bus Lithgow / Mt Victoria  
Bus Mt Victoria / Blackheath.

Before I would finally get into the train. The track work was between Lithgow & Mt Victoria & the last bus because there is no lift at Mt. Vic & I cannot struggle down steps with a stick & a case.

All this mess could be avoided if Country Link would reverse the times between Dubbo / Sydney & have the XPT start from Dubbo at 7am instead of Sydney at 7am. but they will not. Country folk have been asking for this for years.

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of course this would still be affected by trackwork but in the long run would be a much better solution.

Do you know also, when I was a young woman & working for a firm which sent me from Sydney each Monday to somewhere in Country NSW & back Friday evening — there were planes to every tin pot little town &/or rail services — this was in the late 1950's & the 1960's & now if one does not drive that's it.

Instead of going forward, Australia seems to be going backwards.

MRS. M.P. EATON