

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Organisation: Dalgety Chamber of Commerce
Name: Ms Julie Pearson
Position: President
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Dalgety Chamber of Commerce

"On the banks of the Snowy River"

To whom it may concern,

Country Link Transport Submission

The Dalgety Chamber of Commerce is a great supporter of the idea to expand Country Link Services in the Snowy Mountains Region. It has been shown in surveys there is a need for transport services between Jindabyne and Bombala and Cooma.

Our Chamber of Commerce has been lobbying for improved transport services to the Snowy Mountains since its inception in 2000. We have instigated the naming & recognition of the *Snowy River Way as scenic a tourist route*. With the co-operation of the Snowy River & Bombala Councils and the Federal Government, the sealing of the Snowy River Way between Dalgety and Bombala has opened up this scenic route to locals and visitors alike. We see the next logical step is to expand Country Link Services throughout the Snowy Mountains.

The Tourism Industry is the prominent industry in the Snowy Mountains and the Monaro. If we are to ever grow the opportunities for international visitors to explore more of our great country transport is the key. The *back-packer market* alone is a financially beneficial market to our region, both as an employment opportunity in winter and for those travelling between working. For every *dollar earned by backpackers there is a 1.8 dollar spend*.

With environmental flows to the Snowy River there has been an increase in visitor numbers to Dalgety to view the improved environmental condition of the River and we believe there would be many more if there were transport options throughout the region. There are opportunities for a variety of visitor demographics to utilize improved services.

As one of the fastest growing regional towns in NSW, Jindabyne and surrounding townships have the opportunity to increase employment opportunities on a year round basis, moving away from the seasonality of employment, especially for our youth.

We have been lacking in these services for far too long and with many of the hurdles having been addressed it is timely that we move to increase opportunities for travelers and residents alike to explore our region more thoroughly and to be able to link with other routes and destinations. There needs to be discussion on timetables and routes and I would be happy to contribute to any of the discussions. Services need to be expanded to bring us into the 21st century with a range of transport options for all budgets.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Pearson
President