

**Submission
No 22**

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Name: Mr John & Mrs Gayl Schmich

Date Received: 13/04/2012

To:

The Chair
State Regional Development Committee,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW, 2800.



Firstly, thank you, from us, & hopefully many others, on being able to submit our voice, & hope the above chair committee do listen to us, on the keeping of & improvement of our XPT Inter-Regional Countrylink Travel & Ticketing Services "Throughout the Orange Central-Rural Regions

On the 8th April, this year, our XPT celebrated an important Day. A Birthday, which went by un-noticed. 30 yrs ago, the XPT began, carrying passengers from Syd-Dubbo-Dubbo-Syd, into the Central West-Rural Regions, with great connecting services, branching from XPT. We had far better services than we do today, with more staff & stations open. In Orange now, we no longer open weekends & public holidays, not even a ticket machine, to buy a ticket, as Bathurst do, or as Bathurst fought & won by the sitting member, to have no booking fee. Here if we wish to travel weekends, you have to pre-book for fee, or push button ph with rail, if it is an unexpected trip. Just hope you get through, before the train leaves, if you have ph av. For us, visitors, just touring, our wonderful city needs to have this service stay, continue, but also be better.

Many trips were made by us, with our family of four little girls, with great excitement, off on the spur of the moment train trip, Orange-Dubbo return with an ice cream if good. In later years, as they needed to move onto uni-work in Syd, we knew they were safe, sound could get home - not on the road over the mountain, in car share. Now our four grandsons, as they start their uni-work journeys, also wish for the same, & to be safe off road.

For us, as we have got older, have needed to travel to Syd for medical & hospitals, the journey is not as easy by car & soon NOT at all. We have done drive to Lithgow, then train, medical appointment then returned home "Exhausted." On the occasions that we have travelled XPT, it has been a delight, to enjoy relax, have a meal, arrive in Syd, but an overnight stay for medical appoint is expensive. At present we can stretch the budget if careful, but when we go on pension, not so. It would be just heaven, to have our XPT service remain both ways in day. Hopefully for next generations to come. Remain

Regards