

**Submission
No 3**

DRIVER LICENCE DISQUALIFICATION REFORM

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Position: Transport Development Project Officer
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The Chair
Committee on Law and Safety
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**Submission to
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY
Inquiry into Driver Licence Disqualification Reform**

This submission is primarily in the form of a power point presentation (attached) that uses an animated fictionalised case study to illustrate the unequal impact of loss of a drivers licence on rural and remote residents across NSW. The presentation has been set up with timings to play automatically when opened as a slide show.

This case study, although fictionalised, is based on situations we experience regularly in our work with transport disadvantage. These circumstances may seem extreme but the scenario is not far- fetched and is an accurate representation of the potential range of experiences of a rural and remote resident who loses their access to driving a private motor vehicle.

The key issues presented include:

- The unequal impact of loss of driver's licence in rural and remote regions resulting from lack of the availability of other transport options when compared with metropolitan areas.
- The severe personal impacts resulting from loss of a driving license in rural and remote regions, including inability to continue in employment, social exclusion and negative health outcomes.
- The wider effects of these impacts in terms of costs to State and Federal governments.

I am available to discuss this further should the Committee wish,

Yours sincerely

Linda Wirf

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To start this presentation click on 'slide show' at top – then 'from beginning' and wait for the presentation to start.



Please wait- this presentation is self animated and will start in 2 seconds

Lives at
Bungawalbyn on 5
acres – 40 ks from
Lismore & Casino

Drives a
1995 Holden

Works at *Bunnings* in
Lismore: Mon –Friday 9-5
and every second
Sunday 9-3

Keen footie player-
trains every
Monday and
Wednesday after
work in Casino



This is Joe

Separated :
Ex partner lives in
Lismore and Joe has
access to his 2 small boys
every second weekend

At 33, Joe rates himself overall as
'pretty happy and doing OK'



A blue-outlined starburst shape with multiple points, containing red text. The text is centered and reads:

**Joe commmits a
driving offence that
results in the loss of his
licence**

What are Joe's transport options?

Public Transport: School bus- weekdays only. Leaves Bungawalbyn at 7am, gets to Lismore at 8.45 am. Needs to change buses -to get to Bunnings at 9.30am too late for work. Leaves Lismore at 3.30pm-too early for work. Fare is \$19.40 per day as Joe isn't eligible for any concession-\$100 per week. **No buses on the weekend- can't get to work on Sunday or visit his kids.**

Taxi: Fare over \$150 per day

Car Pooling: Only one person responded- can give Joe a ride on **Mondays only**

Bicycle: Over 40 ks each way and no safe bike paths- narrow winding roads for much of the way.

Move to Lismore? The property Joe lives on has been owned by his family for 3 generations, he has **no rent** to pay and he is attached to his home.

What happens next for Joe?

He is unable to maintain many of his commitments and activities due to lack of transport and his life begins to disintegrate

Joe lives at
Bungawalbyn
on 5 acres

Drives a
1995 Holden

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Lismore: Mon –Friday 9-5
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**Lives at
Bungawlbryn on
5 acres**

Friends start to avoid Joe as they don't want to be asked again to give him a lift somewhere

**Drinking more alcohol to
cope with stress**

**Risk taking- hitchhiking, and
drives car occasionally when
desperate**

**Joe has become socially excluded- significant loss
of physical and mental wellbeing**

**Depression sets in -
lonely, isolated.
Traumatised by inability
to keep up access visits to
his kids. Hard to get help
with no transport to
access support groups.**

**Dependent on Centrelink
Reduced income
Struggles to get to
appointments and required
activities with no transport**



Joe

**Gains weight- can't shop
properly, loss of regular
physical exercise as can't
get to footie training
anymore**



**WIDER EFFECTS
OF JOE'S
TRANSPORT
DISADVANTAGE**

- Impacts on Joe's kids
- Costs to the State
 - loss of productive tax payer
 - likely costs to health system
- Ongoing costs to social support systems
- Ongoing impacts to the legal system resulting from driving while disqualified charges incurred through transport desperation.

Not having access to a private car impacts unequally on people who live in rural and remote regions. The impacts are much less in metropolitan areas where a number of accessible and affordable public transport options are available.

This case study, although fictionalised, is based on situations we experience regularly in our work with transport disadvantage. These circumstances may seem extreme but the scenario is not far-fetched and is an accurate representation of the potential range of experiences of a rural and remote resident who loses their access to driving a private motor vehicle.