

**Submission
No 80**

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Name: Name Suppressed

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18 May 2012

The Committee Manager
State and Regional Development Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Submission to the Inter-Regional Public Transport Inquiry

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make the following submission to the Inter-regional public transport inquiry currently being conducted by the State and Regional Development Committee of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly.

I am a private citizen residing in the town of Tarago, which is approximately 30 minutes south of Goulburn. Each day I travel approximately one hour each way to work in Canberra. Currently there are no public transport options for this journey. There is an increasing number of Canberra workers who have decided to reside in regional communities within a commutable distance for the better quality of life offered by these locations and the cheaper property prices. Of particular note are the significant increases in the regional towns of Bungendore and Goulburn, whose Council is actively marketing the city to Canberra workers.

This ever growing community of workers have virtually no public transport options for their daily commute into Canberra or between the communities themselves. This is causing stress and increased traffic on highways such as the Kings Highway and Federal Highway. As the only viable option is to travel via car, this is causing increased environmental costs through carbon emissions from vehicles and increased costs to individuals through rising petrol prices. A modest investment in public transport would go a long way to mitigate these costs and provide options to individual such as myself.

I offer the following recommendation in relation to two of the terms of reference for this inquiry:

- (a) How CountryLink services can be improved.*
- (b) How the amount of inter-regional travel undertaken by public transport can be increased.*

Recommendation: Establish week-day commuter friendly train services between Goulburn and Canberra

There is an existing railway line from Goulburn to Canberra which runs daily CountryLink services, but these are not at convenient times for workers in Canberra. It would be very easy to establish a single daily service along this line that was run at a convenient time for workers commuting to Canberra. Once in Canberra the existing ACT Action Bus Service would provide links from Canberra station across the city.

Suggested timetable:

Morning Service

Depart Goulburn – 6:45am

Arrive Canberra – 8:20am

Evening Service

Depart Canberra – 5:20pm

Arrive Goulburn – 6:55pm

The total population base of towns with stations along this line, based on 2006 census data, is 56,969 broken down as follows:

Goulburn 20,172

Tarago 530

Bungendore 2,183

Queanbeyan 34,084

Creating this service has the potential to substantially increase inter-regional public transport, utilising existing infrastructure. It also has the potential to encourage people to move to regional areas in these towns breathing life into the communities and regional areas. It could provide increased job opportunities for residents of these towns who currently cannot afford a daily commute to Canberra, and help residents already working in Canberra but struggling with transport costs.

I encourage the committee to seriously consider this recommendation as part of the current inquiry into inter-regional public transport.

Yours sincerely