

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

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# INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL TRANSPORT

It is noted that the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry include...how CountryLink Services can be improved.

***1. Bland Shire Council calls on the NSW State Government to ensure that there is absolutely no reduction in CountryLink services arising from the Inquiry into Inter-Regional Transport.***

Council has grave concerns that improvements to such services could well focus on economic grounds rather than on social justice grounds and if this is the case there may well be a reduction in services in order to save costs and therefore appear to be more effective.

In regional and indeed, rural and remote areas where a CountryLink service is provided, it is the only form of transport available to many within these communities and any reduction will have a significant adverse impact not only individuals but on the future viability of these small towns and villages.

***2. Bland Shire Council calls on the NSW State Government to review the waiting times at Cootamundra Railway Station.***

Council has received many representations about the 'inordinate' waiting time at Cootamundra Railway Station when linking from the Countrylink Bus Service from West Wyalong to a Countrylink Train Service to either Sydney or Melbourne. This leaves many members of the public exposed not only to the elements but also presents a safety risk to their well being.

***3. Bland Shire Council calls on the NSW State Government to reintroduce passenger train services to rural centres.***

One of the most efficient and effective modes of transport between rural and major regional centres is by passenger train services. Council appreciates that over a prolonged period of time previous state governments have allowed our rail infrastructure to deteriorate to a stage where its reinstatement will come at significant cost. But this cost has to be compared with the continuing loss of lives on our state road network and the ever increasing safety aspects linked to increase road freight.

Passenger train services could be physically linked to rail freight carriages thus improving the efficiency of rail transport.

**Ray Smith**  
**General Manager**

