

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Organisation: Country Women's Association of New South Wales -
Jindabyne Branch

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Position: President

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Country Women's Association of New South Wales

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Mr. Andrew Gee, MP
Committee Chair
State & Regional Development Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The members of Jindabyne Branch of the Country Women's Association of NSW (CWA) wish to make a submission with regards to the inquiry into Inter-Regional Transport, and submit the following comments in relation to the Terms of Reference for Snowy River Shire (SR Shire).

(a) HOW CAN COUNTRYLINK SERVICES BE IMPROVED?

- By extending the Country Link service across the South East region of New South Wales, adequate year round access would be provided to all residents and visitors to and from the SR Shire.
- By providing pick up and set down of passengers in every town and village within Snowy River Shire, residents who no longer wish or are

unable to drive a vehicle, would be able to access specialist services in Bega, Canberra and Queanbeyan.

- By providing access to neighboring towns, local residents can more easily visit family and friends.
- By providing a service throughout the year, regional, interstate and overseas visitors can access the Snowy Mountains and towns within SR Shire.

(b) HOW CAN NETWORK LINKAGES BETWEEN COUNTRYLINK TRAIN AND COACH SERVICES BE IMPROVED?

- A full and comprehensive investigation of the routes and suitable timetables is required, to connect the towns and villages of SR Shire with the Country Link train services at Canberra Railway Station, Kingston in the ACT.
- The roads linking all villages and towns within the SR Shire are now sealed, with all weather surfaces suitable for coach or mini bus services, so there is no impediment to accessing all population centres in all but extreme weather conditions.

(c) THE POTENTIAL FOR COUNTRYLINK SERVICES TO CARRY LIGHT FREIGHT:

- Country Link coaches have under floor stowage areas suitable for carrying a limited amount of light freight for notified recipients, to supplement income during off peak seasons in the SR Shire district.
- During winter season (June to October) the stowage area has limited capacity due to the carriage of a large array of skis, snowboards and baggage.

(d) HOW CAN COUNTRYLINK BE BETTER UTILISED TO INCREASE TOURISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES?

Not only regional and interstate CWA members, but also overseas visitors and tourists Australia wide, would be able to access the extensive attractions of the SR Shire:

1. Accessing the walk to the highest point on mainland Australia to Mt Kosciuszko from Thredbo or Charlotte Pass in Spring, Summer and Autumn.
2. Travel to and return from the snowfields of Thredbo, Perisher and Charlotte Pass during winter season (June to October)
3. Viewing Snowy Mountains Scheme installations
4. Encouraging visitors to engage in activities and attractions within SR Shire such as
 - Annual Dragon boat races on Lake Jindabyne
 - Dalgety Annual Show
 - Berridale Easter Fair
 - Snowy Scheme Museum at Adaminaby
 - Sculpture by the Lake, Jindabyne
 - Blues Festival & Jazz Festival at Thredbo and
 - Mountains of Music at Perisher

(e) HOW CAN THE AMOUNT OF INTER-REGIONAL TRAVEL UNDERTAKEN BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT BE INCREASED?

- By providing and **promoting** an increased public transport system to the SR Shire would encourage regional, Australia wide and worldwide visitors to access our Shire all year round.

(f) HOW CAN REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORKS BE BETTER INTEGRATED?

- Provision of regular transport to and from all towns and villages within SR Shire, with year-round timetables connecting with services in larger centres, would encourage passengers to plan their travel around the available network, thus reducing the number of vehicles on the road.

(g) THE ROLE LOCAL COUNCILS CAN PLAY IN IMPROVING INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS:

- The local SR Shire has already provided adequate facilities and shelters to all towns within the Shire, which are currently utilised for transporting school students within the Shire.

- At Jindabyne, the NPWS provide an under-utilised modern transfer station and bus shelter at the Snowy Region Visitors Centre with toilets and café adjacent to the bus/coach terminal.

(h) THE TYPE OF BUSES AND TRAINS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE PROVISION OF FUTURE REGIONAL PASSENGER SERVICES:

A mini bus connection with the main terminals at Berridale and Jindabyne would be capable of providing adequate access to villages within SR Shire.

- Berridale to Dalgety, Eucumbene Cove and Adaminaby
- Jindabyne to outlying residential areas which services a population of 4,500 within 10 kms of Jindabyne township such as: _
High Country Estate, Lakewood Estate, Carinya, Abbington Park and Kalkite

Your consideration of these factors, which we feel are needed to meet the demand of the continual increase of population and potential increase in visitation of tourists within the SR Shire, would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Morris
Jindabyne Branch President
Country Women's Association of NSW