

**Submission  
No 52**

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

**Name:** Mr Luke Osborne

**Date Received:** 15/05/2012

Luke Osborne

Dear Sir/Madam

Thanks for the opportunity to submit some comments on how to improve the Countrylink Service. I live near Canberra and regularly use the Canberra-Sydney service for business. I wrote the note below on one such trip taken recently. I think it neatly captures my view on the service.

*There is talk in the House about a Very Fast Train which will no doubt one day transport us from the Capital to Sydney. As I presently ride the XPT to Sydney I can't help but wonder why we don't have a Slightly Faster Train (SFT) in the meantime. A cursory look at the traffic in and out of the airport today shows me that Qantas and Virgin are running 32 flights to Sydney which I estimate to be about 3000 seats. Many of these are business passengers on daily round trip paying at least \$400 including parking and taxis. Despite the short flight it takes about 3 hours door-to-door each way on the plane. The present train (if run express) could almost match the time and is less than half the cost in first class. What's more one can work on the laptop solidly which is impossible on the plane. So what's preventing the business traffic using the train? In my view a few simple things. Firstly there is no way to make a return trip in one day with business meetings in between. Secondly the many stops at minor stations along the way slow the journey considerably. Finally there needs to be a simple addition of laptop power and wireless internet to each seat.*

Yours truly

Luke Osborne