

**Submission
No 138**

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Name: Mr Greg Tatchell

Date Received: 25/05/2012

ATT: Andrew Gee
RE: Local Public Transport Forum Ideas and Comments

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter in some hope that you can see past elections etc and plan ahead for a better and safer transport for the people past the Blue Mountains. Two Major issues I can see that need to be addressed are:-

- 1) Daily commuting between country towns
- 2) Trips to Sydney

1-I live in blayney and travel daily to Orange for work. If there was a study done of the daily travels of people to Orange from Blayney to work, it would show a tremendous avenue for reducing Carbon Tax and road deaths. Every day there is a stream of cars with only one person in them driving 40kms to Orange. In all kinds of weather from good to horrendous ie snow and sleet. I wrote to the previous labour govt about this, their answer was we don't have enough people here to worry about it. I would rather see a system provided that would provide a safer and more efficient method for the public to reach the larger centres. Either by a bus schedule say every hour for work times and one in middle of day for other uses, the same for afternoon returns. Or by utilising the very little used rail system between towns, via a light rail schedule.

2-recently my family and I travelled to Sydney via public transport to attend the Easter show. There is only ONE countrylink bus per day to Lithgow via Bathurst (and there is no more services provided through the school holidays for families to use, plus there is no package deals for families travelling to the easter show from the country). And then you board a inter city train to Sydney. This trip was a very big learning curve as to what services we are supplied with. The bus was awkward due to the bad roads, you had a sickly feeling after being on it. The train to Sydney was comfortable but got very over crowded after Penrith. The toilets were NOT cleaned upon its arrival at Lithgow, my seven yr old needed to use the toilet due to the 3hr journey, but could not due to the vulgarity of the toilet and the stench. Our return trip didn't fare much better, the train arrived at central and waited for 10mins before setting off for Lithgow again, there were a number of pauses which elongated the trip, my daughter again busting to go to the toilet, this time my wife came back (now she is a local nurse who deals with a great many a difficult human problems) they both came back from the toilet unable for naomi to go again due to the faeces piled up and flowing out of the bowl. This is disgraceful and must be stopped. Again the train had no railcorp people board to clean any toilets at central when the train was there for approx 15mins waiting to return again to lithgow. My daughter had to hold till Lithgow. The other thing we could not hear the announcer in the train telling us what station was next, the speakers was too low in volume or grossly muffled.

In order to move forward with country travel I suggest that Railcorp treat its passengers better and the state government do something to change the rotten system you have been left with from the previous useless government. We country people are voters too and we want services that link us with both other towns and Sydney. And not just a token one a day rubbish. If you provide a good and reliable service we will use it.

Regards

Greg Tatchell
18-5-12