

**Submission  
No 9**

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

**Name:** Ms Deborah Hunt

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Thursday March 22, 2012

Andrew Gee MP  
Chair, State and Regional Development Committee  
Inquiry into inter-regional public transport

Dear Mr Gee

I understand you are interested in how Country Link services can be improved and how regional public transport networks can be better integrated.

As someone who used to live and work in Sydney and who now lives and works in Broken Hill, can I say how disappointed I am in the lack of suitable transport services to and from Broken Hill. That lack is a major disincentive for anyone living in, working in, or travelling to this part of New South Wales.

Visitors, including business people, are put off by several factors:

- the Country Link train from Sydney only runs direct to Broken Hill once a week. On other days a bus link is provided from Dubbo, which adds another three hours onto a journey that already takes over 13 hours. A 16+ hour journey to get from Sydney to Broken Hill is excessive. The fare is reasonable but the service needs to be improved.
- It seems the only way to get from Broken Hill to Adelaide, short of flying, is to take the Indian Pacific train, which is prohibitively expensive.
- lack of choice when it come to airlines. Rex has a monopoly on the route to Broken Hill and the local council does nothing to encourage competition, quite the reverse. Ticket prices are therefore kept high and planes are often delayed since Rex has a captive market. Unless you book well in advance you are forced to pay a huge premium, which discourages business travellers. It can cost \$1200 return.

Broken Hill is a fascinating, vibrant place with a great sense of community. The only drawback is its isolation. Whatever you can do to improve transport links would be much appreciated.

Kind regards

Deb Hunt