

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Name: The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Position: Member for Burrinjuck
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(in reply please quote)

The Committee Manager
State and Regional Development Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Submission to Inter-regional Public Transport Inquiry

This submission is made on behalf of the constituents of the Burrinjuck electorate. The Inquiry Terms of Reference seek comments on, amongst other things, how CountryLink services can be improved and how network linkages between CountryLink train and coach services can be improved.

I support the submission to the Inquiry made by the Mayor of Boorowa Council, Cr Wendy Tuckerman, with the exception of her suggestion that CountryLink coach services should not carry light freight. I support the carriage of light freight by all CountryLink services if this will improve the financial sustainability of the route, but I stress it should not be to the detriment of passenger transport. I commend Cr Tuckerman's other comments to the committee recommending your favourable consideration.

As a general comment, every LGA should have, as an absolute minimum, one twice-weekly return public transport link to a major regional centre.

I specifically draw the attention of the committee to the lack of any public transport link within the Boorowa Local Government Area (LGA). This continues to be a significant concern to the whole community and one which needs to be addressed urgently, in addition to the planning being undertaken by Transport for NSW for the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan. I believe that the Boorowa LGA is the only council area in New South Wales without this minimum level of service. This is a major inequity that impacts disproportionately on pensioners, low income families and isolated people in the smaller towns and villages in Boorowa LGA. Many people within these categories are ineligible for community transport, cannot afford taxis and have no access to public transport. The existing levels of community transport in this area are all working to capacity and are unable to meet current demand.

To address this major inequity I strongly urge the committee to recommend the immediate creation of a trial, twice weekly passenger bus service for Boorowa with the results of the trial to be fed into the development of the NSW Long-Term Transport Master Plan.

Yours sincerely,

KATRINA HODGKINSON MP

Member for Burrinjuck
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

