

**Submission
No 26**

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Name: Mrs Elsie Backhouse

Date Received: 19/04/2012

RECEIVED
19.4.12

Mrs Elsie Beckhouse

The Committee Manager

State & Regional

Development Committee

Parliament House

Macquarie Street

Sydney 2000

15/4/12

Dear Sir,

Re the transport in the Coffs Harbour Region, I have been writing to members of Parliament for 18 years to see why the transport Dept cannot bring the present Countrylink coach from Grafton on to Coffs Harbour.

The coach comes from Moree via Warialda & Delungra to Inverell, then on via Glen Innis to Grafton on Monday - Wednesday and Friday. It returns to Moree on Tuesday - Thursday & Saturdays. Why can't it be brought right through to Coffs Harbour.

2

Some say there is not enough passengers, but that is rubbish. Before I came to live in Coffs Harbour I worked in a travel agency and one had to book in advance to get on that coach each way every day. It was always full.

But now there is no connection with that coach in Grafton from the south of Grafton. One has to find their own way from the south to Grafton to meet it at 11.45 AM for the trip to Moree & then it arrives in Grafton on the return journey at approx 4 P.M and the only way south is on the train from Brisbane which leaves Grafton at 9.30^{PM}. The driver has to stay in Grafton every second night. Why can't it begin at Coffs Harbour. We are only a little over an hour to Grafton. I know of many people both from the Moree & Merrell areas as well as from Coffs Harbour to Nambucca Heads

3

who would use the Countrylink coach if there was connections to it in Grafton, or better still bring it onto Coffs Harbour. The owner of the coach is prepared to come the extra distance.

It seems so silly that there is no way to get over the range to the inland when there are so many ways to get to and from Grafton from both Sydney and Brisbane.

There is a countrylink to and from Inverell to Tamworth daily and one from Inverell to Armidale once or twice a week and the same coach owner owns the three.

Inverell, Delungra, Warialda, Kingara, Barraba, mundle Tamworth return. (1)

Inverell, Guyra, Armidale or Inverell, Glen Innis Armidale. Am not quite sure. (2)

Moree, Warialda, Gravesend, Delungra, Inverell, Glen Innis, Grafton, returns to Moree the second day.

It would take a lot of traffic off the Pacific H/way & the Gwydir H/way.

4

When I worked at the travel agent, the country link train from Sydney met the coach in Grafton in the morning going through Coffs Harbour and on the return the train was waiting for the coach for the return to Sydney and all stations south.

[REDACTED] I've been writing as I've said for 13 years for this. Even the railway station here would like to see it happen. It is not much fun sitting on the platform at Grafton waiting for the train from 6.P.M to 9.30 P.M in the dark with a drunk aborigine for company. I have also complained about this too many times as the waiting room is closed and there's no toilet on the platform anymore, why not think about this regional area and not so much about Sydney.

Hoping for a satisfactory reply soon
Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]