

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Organisation: Two More Trains For Singleton

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Two More Trains For Singleton

A campaign for two additional daily passenger rail services from Newcastle to Singleton

16 May 2012

The Committee Manager
State & Regional Development Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission - Inter Regional Public Transport Inquiry

Two More Trains for Singleton wishes to make a submission in to the Committee's Inter-regional Public Transport Inquiry.

Two More Trains for Singleton is seeking additional passenger services between Maitland, Singleton and the Upper Hunter Valley. The group has more than 1000 supporters who have signed its petition seeking an improved passenger rail service between Singleton and Newcastle. The group has undertaken a review of passenger demand and opportunities for providing additional services and has made a number of submissions to RailCorp, CityRail and the NSW Government requesting a program to implement more frequent services.

Government transport planning must provide for additional passenger rail services now and into the future to support population growth in the Upper Hunter as provided for in local and state strategic land use planning. In particular, passenger transport requirements should be recognised as a priority over freight movements and should note the public interest benefits of providing increased regular passenger services. Issues that should be considered by the inquiry are as follows:

- 1 Improvements to current CityRail services to Singleton to provide more frequent services can occur in the short term with minimal capital investment.
- 2 In the long term, a two hourly passenger train service should be provided to Singleton, similar to comparable near metropolitan areas.
- 3 Population growth as a result of coal mining developments is significantly increasing demands for passenger rail services in the area.
- 4 The recent upgrading of track in the Hunter Valley has not given consideration to the provision of infrastructure for improving passenger access to the network.
- 5 Passenger rail provides significant environmental, health and social benefits over the road transport system and should be encouraged now. In the long term, rail will be the preferred transport mode for many journeys between the Upper Hunter, Sydney and Newcastle, and also to towns in North West NSW.

Please ensure that the Committee's report supports more frequent rail services to the Hunter region and North West NSW, and recognises the public interest benefits of providing an improved service.

yours sincerely

for Two More Trains For Singleton
