

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

**Name:** Mr John W Wholohan JP

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**5 May 2012**

**The State and Regional Development Committee,  
Macquarie Street,  
Sydney. 2000**

**Dear Members,**

**Re: NSW State and Regional Development committee "Inquiry into inter-regional public transport".**

**No doubt you have had many submissions in favour of Country link services to Jindabyne and I believe that there has been a strong case submitted in favour of a scheduled year round bus service.**

**I would take the opportunity to remind you that the Snowy mountains region is indeed one of the jewels in the crown of NSW tourism.**

**The fact that public transport is so lacking is a shocking indictment of the previous Labor Government and shows a lack of interest in providing services to regional New South Wales and in particular one of the States tourist hot spots.**

**I suppose the sad story began with the closure of the Cooma railway some 20 years ago and extends to the situation we have today where there are no scheduled bus services to the Snowy region in summer and no air services are available. Whilst a token winter air service is provided it struggles to survive with many who would travel forgoing the opportunity for safety reasons. The small aircraft servicing Cooma airport suffer badly in winter flying conditions. Even if one is brave enough to fly to Cooma they are still about 100km from the major resorts and the transfer fees from the airport are usually more than the airfare. The development of the existing Jindabyne airport should also be considered.**

**In summer and in winter the poor public transport options force most visitors to travel by car and in many cases, especially in winter, many inexperienced drivers get into all sorts of trouble on the alpine roads.**

**Climate change is now having an impact on the winter snow season which for dedicated skiers is now down to eight weeks in July and August. For the tourist industry to survive into the future it must rely more and more on summer visitations. And accessibility in summer is therefore critical. It is obvious that an alternative means of accessing the major tourist areas in and around Jindabyne is so desperately needed. A scheduled Country link bus service is the answer and**

consideration should be given to extending the service to Thredbo. The company operating Thredbo village already provides amenities for winter coach drivers and no doubt be able to provide the necessary bus terminal facilities.

Initial profitability should not be expected but as the saying goes, provide it and they will come. This must be regarded as an essential public amenity that should not initially be driven by profit motives

Yours faithfully,

  
John W Wholohan JP