

**Submission  
No 55**

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

**Name:** Mrs GH Alcock

**Date Received:** 16/05/2012

The Chair,  
State & Regional Development Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Sir,

Re: PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND A DIRECT BUS SERVICE  
FROM ORANGE TO CANBERRA.

I am writing to strongly plead my case for a direct bus service between Orange and Canberra.

In order to visit my son and his family at Numeralla, I have to catch the 9.10 am Countrylink coach from Orange to Cootamundra and wait 2hrs 30mins before setting out on the second leg of the journey from Cootamundra to Canberra via another Countrylink coach.

By the time the second coach reaches Canberra at around 5.22 pm, the only coach to Cooma on that day has already gone on its merry way (the two simply don't connect) so I am left with one of two options, either

- a) Stay overnight in Canberra and resume the journey to Cooma the next day or
- b) Rely on my relatives to drive the 137 km from their Numeralla property to Canberra to pick me up.

At this point, I have already been on the road for just over 8 hours & have a further 137 km to travel before reaching journey's end. It is a very long and tiring day for an octogenarian so, needless to say, I don't undertake the trip too often.

At one time, a private bus company had a run from Dubbo to Canberra and the coach reached the Jolimont Centre in time for lunch. The Jolimont Centre has all the necessary facilities weary travellers require - viz. a large waiting area fully equipped with toilets, food outlets, comfortable seating & luggage lockers.

For some unknown reason, (probably another cost saving exercise), The Countrylink bus I have to travel on, no longer picks up or sets down at the Jolimont. It pulls in at a normal suburban bus stop in West Row where there is inadequate shelter and seating & no access to food or toilets.

As I don't drive a car myself and have been paying taxes all my adult life, I feel quite justified in demanding a more efficient, streamlined rural & regional transport system be set up in this State.

Yours faithfully  
(MRS) G.H. ALCOCK