

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Organisation: Blue Mountains Lithgow and Oberon Tourism
Name: Mr Randall Walker
Position: Chairman
Date Received: 15/05/2012



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

15 May 2012

Re: Inquiry into Inter-Regional Public Transport

To whom it may concern,

We submit the following response from Jason Cronshaw, Director representing the Transport sector on the Board of Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Oberon Tourism.

Response to item A: How can CountryLink services be improved

Allowing CountryLink ticket holders to purchase a ticket from Sydney to Katoomba either as a single ticket or as part of an ongoing ticket that allows a stopover in Katoomba.

Response to Item D: How CountryLink services can be better utilised to increase tourism in New South Wales

The main focus of current CountryLink services is connecting smaller regional centres in a single line to larger regional centres which then connect with Sydney. Eg, Lightning Ridge has a service to Dubbo which connects through to Sydney. Moree connects through Gunnedah to Sydney, so if a tourist wishes to visit both Lightning Ridge and Moree they have to travel a long way around to visit both centres, if there was more provision of services that criss crossed the network you could design itineraries for tourists to travel to many regional destinations without the need for back tracking. The benefit to a region such as the Blue Mountains for this would be connecting Mudgee with the upper Hunter Valley as one possible connection – services could then be connected such as

Sydney – Blue Mountains

Blue Mountains – Mudgee

Mudgee – Hunter Valley

Then the option of Hunter Valley is either returning to Sydney or anywhere North.



Currently you have to do Sydney – Blue Mountains – Mudgee – return to Sydney same path to then travel North

The expansion of the Countrylink holiday programme to more regional destinations

A greater connection between CountryLink and private services that allows greater communication, shared timetabling and ideally connections between CountryLink and private services and once this is established, providing greater product information of all services CountryLink and private and even one ticketing system can be accepted by all operators.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the enquiry. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,



Randall Walker
Chairman
Blue Mountains Lithgow and Oberon Tourism