

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Organisation: National Parks and Wildlife Service
Park Management Division

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**Office of
Environment & Heritage**
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



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

Dear Chair

I refer to the inquiry into inter-regional public transport and specifically transport services and their impact on the Snowy Mountains Region and Kosciuszko National Park.

Kosciuszko National Park is the largest national park in NSW and attracts up to two million visitors annually. The park is central to the south eastern region of NSW and is the major tourism destination which includes the iconic Mount Kosciuszko Australia's highest mountain, many great tourism experiences, destinations and touring routes.

The park contains the four NSW ski resorts and most of the world renowned Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric scheme.

Five local government areas surround the park with major through roads traversing the park which include the Alpine Way, Snowy Mountains Highway and many other tourism roads that provide a link into the park and on to major regional centres.

As a major tourism attraction Kosciuszko National Park plays an important role in providing for and growing tourism attractions and experiences in south eastern NSW. Winter is well serviced for transport to the mountains; however, with a strong regional focus on trying to grow non winter tourism there is lack of public transport outside of the winter season. This lack of public transport is well highlighted in the report "Understanding Perceptions of the Snowy Mountains as a Holiday Destination" (2010).

In particular, questions raised by visitors to the region clearly indicate that the lack of year round public transport to the region precludes tourist groups who rely on public transport such as the backpacker market and certain domestic visitors. A public transport link to key regional centres of Jindabyne, Tumut, Albury from Sydney and Canberra into the park would help support this tourism market.

I would also bring to the Inquiry's attention the National Parks & Wildlife Service complex in Jindabyne is an under utilised resource as a transport interchange in the non winter months. The complex includes the Snowy Region Visitor Centre, six coach parking bays, a heated and secure coach station, public car parking spaces, café and cinema.

The National Parks & Wildlife Service continues to work with the communities surrounding the park to enable visitors to enjoy and appreciate Kosciuszko National Park. A regular year round bus service from Sydney and Canberra to the mountains and one that enables transport throughout the park is a significant missing link to our region.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW HARRIGAN