

**Submission
No 60**

INQUIRY INTO INTER-REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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

via Parliament of New South Wales - online Submission

Dear Sir/Madam

Inter-regional public transport (Inquiry)

Perisher Blue Pty Limited (Perisher) is the owner and operator of the Perisher Ski Resort located in Kosciuszko National Park. Perisher Ski Resort is the largest ski resort in the Southern Hemisphere and is the largest single tourism facility located in New South Wales National Parks.

Perisher provides the following submission to the State and Regional Development Committee's inquiry into how inter-regional public transport can better serve the needs of regional New South Wales. In particular Perisher's submission will focus on aspects relevant to the NSW Snowy Mountains.

How CountryLink Services can be improved

At present the NSW Snowy Mountains areas of Jindabyne, Perisher and Thredbo are not serviced by any CountryLink Services.

The current CountryLink Southern Timetable completely excludes our local area with the current scheduled service running from Sydney (Central) – Canberra (Kingston) – Canberra Civic – Bombala – Eden and return.

The addition to CountryLink's Southern Timetable to include the Jindabyne, Perisher and Thredbo region, would provide an essential transport service to our region.

How Network Linkages between CountryLink train and coach services can be improved

Network linkages between CountryLink train and coach services can be improved by a reconfiguring of its Southern Timetable to include travel services to and from the Jindabyne area.



How CountryLink can be better utilised to increase tourism in New South Wales

Based on findings published in *The Economic Significance of the Australian Alpine Resorts* prepared by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research in June 2006, NSW Alpine Resorts attract approximately 1.1 million visitor days annually contributing \$812 million in total gross state product to the NSW economy and create 10,459 jobs per annum and are very important to the economy and communities of South East New South Wales

NSW Alpine Resorts represent; hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in tourism infrastructure; are the largest source of non-government revenue for National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) State wide, as well as making a very significant annual contribution to total gross state product to the NSW economy and attracting millions of visitors each year.

One of the major constraints for the area in order to grow tourism is the lack of a year round transport service. While the winter season is serviced by private operators (at their discretion), no transport service is available at all for the period October through to May.

Studies undertaken by Tourism Snowy Mountains concerning perceptions of the Snowy Mountains area as a holiday destination highlight the lack of transport as the major issue to overseas and domestic tourism, affecting many segments including the important backpacker market.

How the amount of inter-regional travel undertaken by public transport can be increased

Given that no public transport is currently available to the Jindabyne area, a CountryLink service would provide a means of access to, for example medical professionals and treatments available at hospitals and medical centres at Cooma, Canberra and Sydney.

A CountryLink service would also provide a service for local students enrolled at Boarding Schools as well as University and higher education students studying in metropolitan areas to travel to and from home.

As Canberra is only two hours north with its large student population with a large proportion of overseas students, there is enormous potential to increase visitation to our region for summer and winter tourism activities.

Similarly, retirees from the South Coast, some of whom may be reluctant to drive long distances and/or on mountain roads are another potential growth area for local domestic visitation via a Countrylink service.

The type of buses and trains that will be required for the provision of regional passenger services in the future.

Appropriate coaches built to Australian Government safety regulations and standards, fitted with seatbelts, wheelchair-accessible facilities; space for a child seat / pram and elderly customers.

Additionally, coaches should have adequate luggage space for bicycles, snowboards and skis.

Yours sincerely



Peter Brulisauer
Chief Executive Officer