

**Submission
No 4**

**ACCESS TO TRANSPORT FOR SENIORS AND
DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE IN RURAL AND REGIONAL
NSW**

Name: Mr William Bateman

Date Received: 16 June 2016

I am making a submission to the enquiry on behalf of the Delegate community.

My name is William Rhodes Bateman and until very recently I was a Councillor on the Bombala Shire Council and I live in Delegate and would like to see that their transport needs are better looked after.

I served as the Chairman of the Bombala Community Care Committee and took an interest in the needs of the aged and infirm. I am also the President and Honorary Secretary of the Delegate Country Club Inc, and am a Trustee of the Delegate RSL Sub-Branch.

Delegate Township lies on the Delegate Road (also known as Bombala Street or at the start of the Bonang Highway – depending on which of the locals you talk to) which starts at Bombala 33 Km to the North and leads to Orbost, Victoria, and is about 7km from the Victorian Border.

In the 2011 Census the population of Delegate is 452 and is comprised of 54% males and 46% females. The median/average age of the Delegate population is 51 years of age, 14 years above the Australian average. 91% of people living in Delegate were born in Australia. The other top responses for country of birth were England 3,1%, Philippines 0.7%, Germany 0.7%, Croatia 0.7%, Papua New Guinea 0.7%.

96.5% of people speak English as their first language 0.7% Tagalog, 0.7% Croatian, 0.7% German, 0% Irish, 0% Gaelic (Scotland).

The religious make up of Delegate is 33.8% Anglican, 31.6% Catholic, 18.9% No Religion, 4.7% Presbyterian and Reformed, 2.7% Uniting Church.

47.3% of people are married, 28.4% have never married and 9.2% are separated or divorced. There are 41 widowed people living in Delegate.

51.4% of the people living in Delegate are employed full time, 33.8% are working on a part time basis. Delegate has an unemployment rate of 8.1%.

The main occupations of people from Delegate are Managers (Real Farmers on their own land) 29.9%, Labourers 18.9%, Machinery Operators And Drivers (Big local; timber industry) 11.9%, Technicians and Trades Workers 8,5%, Community and Personal Service Workers 7%, Professionals 7%, Clerical and Administrative Workers 7%, Sales Workers 4.5%.

The median individual income is \$384.00 per week and the median household income is \$672.00 per week.

56% of homes are fully owned, and 22% are in the process of being purchased by home loan mortgage. 18% of homes are rented.

The median rent in Delegate is \$100 per week and the median mortgage repayment is \$910 per month.

Notes.

Population of delegate is taken to mean an area about the Township as well as the actual township itself. Putting the statistics into the real world the following observations might be made of the Township and surrounding region;

- (a) The population is getting older and the younger ones will eventually leave the district, except for a small few who will stay on the farm;
- (b) The timber industry is a significant, but much smaller, employer, and
- (c) Numbers have been declining for many years.

There are a number of single aged residents who live basically on the Aged Pension and do not have ready access to transport when they need it.

There are ways of providing community transport for the ill, aged and infirm that exist in small rural communities but are not used, and mostly not even recognised.

They are the small buses that sporting and other service Clubs use to transport their customers; or if you like the local Club "Booze Bus"

They are usually only used on a Friday and Saturday night in small Clubs, and for the rest of the week lie idle.

Being small buses, 8-12 seat capacity, they do not require other than a normal driver's licence to operate.

If the Government agencies looked into this I am sure that for very modest returns to the owner Clubs, buses could be made available during week day business hours, and probably beyond, to transport the ill, aged and infirm to larger rural centres.

And where a local Golf/Bowling/ Sporting club did not have a suitable vehicle, grants in the order of \$20,000-\$30,000 can purchase quite suitable second hand vehicles.

Whilst the conditions of use and the terms and conditions of use and payment for that use might take some organising I do not believe that this suggestion could not be implemented.

I am sure that such a transport scheme could be implemented.

The Clubs would be willing participants in ,most cases as the persons they would be servicing would in all likelihood be Club members, or have relatives who are Club members.

William Rhodes Bateman (Dip Ap. Math)

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