

**Submission
No 28**

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

Organisation: South Lake Macquarie Public Transport Action Group
Name: Ms Noleen Robinson
Position: Chairperson
Date Received: 19 July 2016

The Members of the Legislative Committee on Community Services,
NSW State Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Members,

ATTENTION Ms. Dee-Dee San Jose

As Chairperson of the South Lake Macquarie Public Transport Action Group, herewith please find our submission for The Inquiry into Access to Transport in Rural and Regional NSW.

The submission and attached documents will outline the reasons and the progress of our group, in endeavouring to have a public bus travelling cross country from Morisset to Wyong Hospital.

The reason we started our group in 2010, is because many citizens of all ages living in this region, have quite serious difficulties in accessing our closest public hospital. Wyong Hospital is located at Kanwal, some 13 kilometres from Wyong Railway Station.

We realise that the inquiry is aimed at seniors and disadvantaged in our community and our concerns cover both of these categories of citizens.

Should your members need to interview members of our SLMPTAG group, two of our members are happy to travel to Sydney for this purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to make our submission for this very important Inquiry.

Yours Sincerely



Ms. Noleen Robinson
Chairperson,
South Lake Macquarie Public Transport Action Group
P.O. Box 473
Morisset NSW 2264.

Dated 18th July 2016.

cc Greg Piper MP Independent State Member for Lake Macquarie.



SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE INQUIRY
INTO ACCESS TO TRANSPORT IN RURAL AND REGIONAL N.S.W.

PREPARED BY MS. NOLEEN ROBINSON, CHAIRMAN OF
SOUTH LAKE MACQUARIE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP. (S.L.M.P.T.A.G.)

On behalf of, and in agreement with, the members of SLMPTAG, I welcome the opportunity to make this submission for the Inquiry into Access to Transport in Rural and Regional N.S.W.

Our SLMPTAG group consists of concerned citizens of the South Lake area of Lake Macquarie in the lower Hunter region of NSW. Attached please find various documents outlining our progress in endeavoring to get a public bus from Morisset Railway Station through Wyee Village, to Wyong Hospital via Lake Haven Centrelink / Medicare Offices.

Our local Independent State Member of Parliament Greg Piper M.P. has been very supportive of our endeavors since we started on this journey to help our fellow citizens in this area to have a public bus to travel cross country to our nearest public hospital at Wyong, (which is actually situated at Kanwal, some 13 kilometres from the railway station at Wyong).

The main reasons for requesting this bus is to assist citizens to access medical treatments for any member of their families, whether they be babies, toddlers, single mothers, mobility impaired persons, aged citizens with eyesight problems, and /or using walkers, etc. There is already community transport available for seniors needing transport in the way of Mercy Community Transport, and the Southlakes Carers also help out with the aged folk, but both of these services come at a higher cost. We need a public bus for all people needing to either seek treatment or visit their loved ones receiving inpatient care at the hospital. Therefore we need the bus to provide concessional fares, the same as suburban citizens in Metropolitan Sydney.

This area of regional NSW has above state average of aged citizens, and also above state average of youth unemployed. These youth have to attend the Centrelink offices on a regular basis to both lodge their forms and to use the computers provided by Centrelink to apply for jobs. The aged people cannot manage the trains, because they often use mobility aids, and are too slow to get off the train before the "doors closing" announcement is heard. Aged people cannot get up from their seats whilst the train is in motion, and also other folk have the same problem if they are suffering broken limbs using crutches, arm in a sling etc. Folk using wheelchairs often cannot disembark from the train because there is very often no station attendant available to get the mobility ramp in place. I have personally witnessed this happening. We need only one mode of transport to the hospital namely a bus.

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SLMPTAG members would be happy for a trial to be conducted of any new proposed bus service, to be able to prove its viability. However, this would need to be widely advertised in our area for citizens to be able to access this trial service. The Editors of our local media and various other means of advertising through local organisations social media etc, would be only too happy to help with the advertising.

Mr. David Stewart, the editor of our local Lakes Mail newspaper, has been of major help in our campaign, having *Get On Board* regular articles in the paper encouraging citizens to support our campaign, hence all the petition signatures and personally signed letters etc submitted to State Parliament by our Independent State member Greg Piper MP.

We began our quest in 2010, and formed SLMPTAG in early 2011.

The attached documents will show the efforts we have taken since these dates:

Attached document No. 1: Brief background history.

Attached document No. 2: Group Progress to date includes copies from media.

Attached document No. 3: Copy letter to Paul Green MLC requesting assistance.

Attached document No. 4: Document showing proposed route to Wyong Hospital.

Attached document No. 5: Document showing reference to the Private Members' Bills spoken in NSW State Parliament by our local Independent State Member Greg Piper M.P. requesting parliamentary assistance in this matter.

Thank you once again, I and a member of our group would be happy to attend an interview with your panel, if that is needed.

Ms. Noleen Robinson. 

Chairperson of South Lake Macquarie Public Transport Action Group (SLMPTAG.)
P.O. Box 473 Morisset, NSW 2264.


