

**Submission
No 41**

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

Organisation:

Name: Ms Bronwyn Stephens

Position:

Date Received: 20 July 2016

Submission to the Enquiry into Rail Services in Regional NSW (community service@parliament.nsw.gov.au

I am writing to urge consideration for the introduction of rail services around the Northern Rivers area. This form of transport is desperately needed for the benefit of the community services and economical growth.

The existing bus services are not providing a contemporary public transport system that can service the movement of people between small villages and the bigger towns. People attending medical services and work are disadvantaged.

Many groups within the community would benefit from an improved public transport system including:

- young people so they can move around the area accessing schools and beaches. At the moment they become isolated and dependant of their parents for transport to various activities. Improved public transport would encourage young people to stay in the area and contribute to the business economy when they leave school. This would reduce crime and anti social behaviour.
- mothers with children who would be better placed to access medical services and shopping options
- older people who would have increased access to medical services and activities that encourage participation in the community reducing isolation
- back packers and travellers who would have improved access to sites and national parks with greater ease
- local residents and tourists who would visit Lismore and other towns if there was easy access from Ballina airport and
- community members being able to access work and medical treatment in Queensland which at the moment is incredibly difficult and time consuming
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The cost is not that expensive considering the amount recently spent on road upgrades to assist through transport along the coast. These roads do not provide for local community interaction.

Please assist the northern rivers in being a modern community that provides accessibility to schools, work and retail options for its residents and tourists.

From: Bronwyn Stephens

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