

**Submission
No 51**

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

Organisation:

Name: Ms Susan Stock

Position:

Date Received: 21 July 2016

Submission No.51 – Ms Susan Stock

Sir/Madam,

I would like to lend my support in this submission to the vital aspect that providing electric light rail on the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line would have on the amenity of older, younger, disabled and disadvantaged persons who often do not have any access to a car and very limited public transport in the Northern Rivers.

Many people find it hard travelling by bus - it's expensive and uncomfortable for longer distances, especially when visiting medical specialists in Queensland, Many yearn for a regular passenger train service to be reinstated on our line. The great advantage of light rail is that modern carriages provide easy access for wheel chairs from platform to the train.

The Northern Rivers is a major tourism hotspot and extending the rail would be a boon to this and help to realise the potential of the region. More jobs could be created as a result. Extending the line up to Queensland would further benefit the whole region and create a connection to Queensland that so many people would use, especially with the Commonwealth Games happening in 2018.

In the past there was a regular 'surf train' from Casino via Lismore to Byron Bay which was enormously attractive to young people. Many disadvantaged young people live in Casino and environs, do not have a car and would love to regularly go to the beach.

We already have the existing line and rail corridor as a central part of our local infrastructure and do not need to build a new corridor – it would be wonderful to realise the potential of this great asset not only for our region but for the benefit of the whole of Australia.

We also need to consider the carbon emissions of cars and trucks. As an older person, I feel keenly the need to address our carbon emissions so the young may have a bright future and one not determined by a climate catastrophe. We need action from our leaders on this. In the Netherlands they expect that all their rail will be 100% renewable energy powered by 2018.

<http://inhabitat.com/all-netherlands-railways-trains-will-be-100-wind-powered-by-2018/>

In Calgary in Canada the electric light rail system is having enormous success in taking cars off road using clean energy. This is one of the best aspects of electrified rail transport: the ability to choose cleaner, greener options. By purchasing wind power, (their main renewable resource) Calgary Transit reports they are saving 56,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

<http://www.greenenergyfutures.ca/episode/c-train-success-nenshi-calgary#.V5APuUrqlGo.facebook>

In Santiago in Chile, the rail system is proposed to be powered by solar energy by 2017.

<https://www.element14.com/community/groups/power-management/blog/2016/06/13/santiago-aims-to-have-the-first-metro-system-run-by-solar-power?CMP=SOM-TWITTER-PRG-BLOG-CATWELL-SOLARMETRO-COMM-E14#.V5APf11WMjY.facebook>

Only a viable well time-tabled rail and integrated public transport system will do the job for those in our region who have for a very long time not been treated in an equal manner to our

counterparts in other regions and in cities – we are greatly disadvantaged by this lack of an essential service.

As a retired school teacher, I am well aware of this current disadvantage.

Kind regards

Susan Stock, BA, Dip Ed, MA.

