

**Submission
No 52**

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

Organisation:

Name: Ms Jillian Spring

Position:

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Submission No. 52 – Ms Jillian Spring

I present my Submission to the Inquiry into access to transport for seniors and disadvantaged people in rural and regional NSW

To The Committee Chair and Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall and Committee Members

I quote:

“Most Australians have access to public transport or have enough money to provide their own,” Committee Chair and Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall said. “For most of us, society supports our mobility.

I present the following Submission in relation to the need for a public train transport service.

The above quote is not right. Public Transport - ie - safe, enjoyable public transport is not available here from Billinudgel and associated areas. I do not drive into Byron Bay because of the increased traffic and I would love to be able to visit there by train and into Mullumbimby, Lismore, Bangalow, Murwillumbah.

I cannot travel to Kempsey to see my daughter, grandchildren and other family and friends as I just cannot cope with that Trainlink bus trip to meet the train at Casino Railway Station. I have been on the buses when other people have rung family to come and meet them at a stop so they can get off the bus, being such a long, drawn-out, extended drive when the train is very much faster and enjoyable. From the top of St Helena hill overlooking Byron Bay, the time from there to Billinudgel for me is 1 hour, when by train, 20minutes.

At present, Splendour in the Grass with 30,000 people there this year at Wooyung, people could take a trip on the train there. As also, Bluesfest at Tyagarah at Easter the same. This would save so much extra traffic problems with a train as train stations were at both these areas.

Seniors and disability people want and need to be independent, to be able to visit friends, towns, happenings, for medicals, shopping when they need to and when they want to. With carers, being able to relax on a train is vital too. They can really enjoy their outing or whatever they have/need to do. The responsibility is enormous and they do not need the hassle of coping with road traffic. Parking is a massive problem; all adding to a stressful time that would be eliminated with being able to travel by a public train service.

This area is continuing to grow in population which is a stated fact by Government departments and many other population organisations - eg - housing, transport, tourism.

An article: The SUN 16 April 2016 states the need for a integrated public transport system for the Gold Coast and Tweed Heads from Brisbane. This is what we, on the Northern Rivers link into everyday. The roads are becoming more congested. People want to be able to relax, not having to cope with the traffic madness. They want to be able hop on a train and not have to worry about driving and parking.

Buses are not the answer to meet the above needs. For some short areas and connecting to the train is what is needed.

All these provide jobs for so many people. The employment variety would be very conducive for the wider community, bringing much needed employment opportunities to a greater number of people.

An integrated public transport system is a desperate need. This includes cycling with bikes being able to be met at certain sections, carried on a carriage to a destination. All an incredible innovation for this vibrant area of NSW.

Yours faithfully

Jillian Spring

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