

**Submission
No 13**

EMISSION FREE MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Name: Mr Andrew Fraser

Date Received: 4 July 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to make this submission and I thank you for supporting this initiative.

I am a member of a number of rail support groups that strongly believe that reopening or upgrading existing regional NSW rail routes is necessary, not only to provide increased public transport and freight, but to reduce emissions by providing rail options for residents in these areas rather than by road.

The regional population is increasing as people have realised they no longer need to live in a city to do many jobs. Particularly the New England region.

We have been campaigning to reopen the Great Northern Railway line north of Armidale for this reason. Unfortunately the Armidale and Glen Innes Councils want to tear up this valuable infrastructure and replace it with a bike path. This does not make any sense as current and future transport needs need to be taken into consideration.

I wrote to The Hon Sam Faraway with information regarding Diesel Electric Hybrid Railmotors that are being used in the UK. These are retrofitted Railmotors that are almost identical to NSW Railways XPT equipment. I referred the Minister to Chiltern Railways in the UK which are the first to embrace this new technology. They advise a substantial decrease in emissions and noise as well as increased efficiency. The NSW could look at retrofitting their ageing regional rail fleet rather than a complete replacement with less efficient equipment.