

**INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OF CASINO TO  
MURWILLUMBAH RAIL SERVICES**

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**Subject:**

**Summary**

**GPSC4 GPSC4 - SAVE OUR TRAIN!**

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**From:** paiger@nor.com.au  
**To:** <gpscno4@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/06/2004 12:58 PM  
**Subject:** SAVE OUR TRAIN!

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Dear Director,

I am writing to you out of great concern for the residents of the Northern Rivers region, particularly those who have spinal cord injury. The Casino Murwillumbah line is an essential means of transport for wheelchair users, and must not be shut down.

People with spinal cord injury have limited mobility. I would invite you to attempt to use a wheelchair to transport yourself throughout this region or beyond on a limited budget, and without using a train. Were you to do so, you would discover the immense difficulties experienced by wheelchair users in relation to public transport. The vast majority of buses are inaccessible, and those that are accessible still provide complications for wheelchair users with relation to transferring and independent movement throughout the coach, not to mention totally inaccessible toilet facilities. Mr Costa proposes using accessible taxi's to transport these people to Casino.... Where is the costing and planning for this? People with spinal cord injuries can ill afford to be catching taxis over long distances, and in addition to this, there are terrible shortages of accessible cabs in many areas. Bear in mind that people using electric wheel chair can only access a Maxi Taxi.

In addition to this, rail is the most environmentally friendly means of transporting people and freight. You only need to look at the state of roads in Northern New South Wales to know that we need to be reducing the current amount of road traffic at every opportunity.

Millions of dollars have recently been spent upgrading this line and associated stations. It is an asset owned by the people of New South Wales and it should be used for a regional commuter service.

The Northern Rivers is New South Wales' fastest growing region, and yet the infrastructure of this region is being dismantled! The closure of this line would be devastating for the whole region, in particular people with spinal cord injuries.

PLease don't close down the line.

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