

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

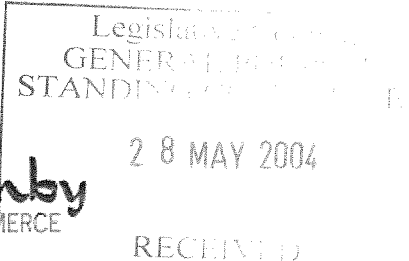
Organisation: Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce
Name: Mr Malcolm Mackenzie
Position: President
Telephone:
Date Received: 28/05/2004

Subject:

Summary



P.O. BOX 294, MULLUMBIMBY 2482 NSW
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The Chair, GPSC4
Parliament House, Sydney 2000

24th May, 2004

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce re the closure of the Northern Rivers Train service from Casino to Murwillumbah.

The Chamber feels that the closure of this line will impact heavily on local businesses and create a larger dependence on private vehicles to transport people around the region. Many older people and youth use the current rail service, as it is a cheap and efficient method of transport. Without the line they will have to rely on buses and private transport, which is not always an alternative for people with disabilities.

The Chamber believes the rail service should be extended not closed. We would like to see the rail service link up with Brisbane so that a light rail service could be run more frequently to service:

1. **Brisbane tourists looking for a day trip to Byron Bay and other towns in the area**
2. **Youth travelling to Lismore for University and TAFE courses**
3. **Youth travelling to Brisbane to attend university and work**
4. **Workers who need to get to larger towns every day and need to rely on a car for travel**
5. **Youth wishing to travel to Byron Bay for entertainment and surfing**

With this area being one of the fastest growing regions in the state and with the increasing number of road accidents and fatalities we believe it is short sighted of the government to close the rail service when it could be utilised to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and help to decrease road deaths.

We urge the government to reconsider the closure of the line and look into reopening it with more services for the public taking into consideration the needs of the people, and not just running a once a day service.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Mackenzie
22a Tincogan St, Mullumbimby
President of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce