

**Submission  
No 227**

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

**Organisation:** Uniting Care Lismore Reginal Mission  
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**Position:** Senior Minister  
**Telephone:**  
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**Subject:**

**Summary**

**GPSC4 GPSC4 - XPT Enquiry**

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**From:** "Llismore Regional Mission" <lisuc@dovenetq.net.au>  
**To:** <gpscno4@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
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**Subject:** XPT Enquiry

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Uniting *Care* Llismore Regional Mission (Uniting Church in Australia) through its Church Council and Joint Administrative Committee are appalled at the total lack of consultation and consideration shown to the people of this region by the Carr government. The Uniting Church primarily is not a conservative church politically and would often find itself more in line with Australian Labor Party. However, on this issue we are totally at odds with a government that has shown an arrogant disregard for its grassroots electorate. This is not a government that really shows care for those who need the most care. We have many aged, disabled and indeed ill people from the Tweed to our specific location who have relied on the XPT services to provide them with appropriate transport to and from Sydney particularly in relation to ongoing medical needs. On board a train they can actually walk around and stretch their legs which is not an option on a coach. Our roads are scenes for horror crashes far too frequently and at great cost for compensation and maintenance. How many more people need die before this government takes notice of the need to take heavy vehicles off our roads and not add more due to short-sighted, ill-informed ministers who fly in and fly out - they don't use the roads they claim are adequate. They don't wait for coaches at coach stops where there is no shelter. They also fail to listen to those who actually do the work on the ground. Our information is that the maintenance per kilometre of track compared to a kilometre of road is only 1/3 the cost. Where is the sound economics here? Rail track maintenance has become expensive because successive administrations are guilty of demolition by neglect.

We call upon the Carr government to reconsider this ill-conceived move and suggest the if Minister Costa is unable to listen to the realities that have been presented to him by the real people, i.e those who know and use this service, then perhaps he ought not hold his Portfolio.

Rev. Bob Rutherford  
Senior Minister