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Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Primary Industries  
and Regional Services  
House of Representatives  
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**SUBMISSION**

**Further Electrification of the Illawarra Rail Line to Bomaderry**

By extending the electrified rail line to Bomaderry, the traveling time between the Shoalhaven Region and the major population centres of Wollongong and Sydney would be significantly reduced, particularly if peak-hour express services were employed. At present, rail commuters are required to change from a diesel service to the electric service at Dapto.

Besides encouraging decentralization of the cities the proposal would:

- generate considerable saving in energy costs;
- increase demand for south-coast coal, hence increase employment for coal miners;
- generate employment in the construction industry;
- revitalize the Bomaderry shopping centre.

By constructing additional new railway stations between Kiama and Bomaderry, traffic congestion generated by new housing estates could be reduced as most of the residential development would occur in this area.

As reported to “Taskforce on Regional Development” which was chaired by Bill Kelty, there is a great need for better coordination between the three sphere of government if sustainable regional development is to occur. Therefore, the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, the Shoalhaven Council and the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services would need to develop a Strategic Plan for the industrial and residential development which would result from the further electrification of the rail line. A special feature of the Strategic Plan would be the need for an independent environmental and social impact study.

Apart from planning and regulation of the proposed development, the main cost to the taxpayer would be the infrastructure involved in the electrification and the proposed new rail stations. The resultant industrial and residential development would be best left to private enterprise to fund.

I believe the above proposal is within the terms of reference of your inquiry and merit careful consideration.

Yours faithfully

David Huggonson  
Regional Economic Development Consultant

1 March 1999