

Ian McKenzie
24 Nevill Street
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20 February 2009

The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senators

Re: Inquiry into the investment of Commonwealth and State funds in public passenger transport infrastructure and services

I am committed to using public transport whenever it is possible and practical. I currently live in Newcastle and regularly travel to Sydney by train. I travel locally by train, bus and bicycle as much as possible.

I own a car. I am a small business owner and need the car for travel to clients' properties – approximately eighty to one hundred per year.

I offer the following comments to the enquiry. Some may not seem directly relevant to the Enquiry but affect the extent of use of public transport.

1. The goals to minimise fuel consumption and minimise the generation of harmful emissions are fundamental.
2. People should be encouraged to use public transport instead of private transport whenever possible and practical.
3. Companion animals should be permitted to travel on public transport. We have a small dog, which is registered and well-behaved. Currently, when my partner and I travel to Sydney for more than a day and take our dog, we are forced to travel by private vehicle because the dog is not permitted on the train.
4. Travel by public transport should be free. The elimination of the cost of fare administration would be a considerable saving. This would encourage people to use public transport leading to a greater provision of services. It could be funded by the savings in provision of road infrastructure achieved by the reduction in private vehicle travel, and from fuel excise.
5. Public transport usage can encourage community development through regular social interaction.

6. Car share schemes and car rental should be encouraged with financial incentives for people who don't own vehicles.
7. The annual running costs of private vehicles such as registration and insurance, which are not relative to annual mileage, should be reduced to an absolute minimum and replaced with a levy included with the cost of fuel at the bowser. This encourages people to reduce their amount of travel in their private vehicle.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian McKenzie', written in a cursive style.

Ian McKenzie