



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

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Serving pensioners of all ages, superannuants and low-income retirees.

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004

15 September 2004

MEDIA RELEASE

Save our rail services from Michael Costa

“Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA) supports the unions’ rally against job cuts in the NSW railway system and resulting service erosion which will impact on public transport users in NSW” said Mr Morrie Mifsud, CPSA State President.

“The Minister for Transport Michael Costa wants to be the Minister *Against* Transport – certainly rail transport. Thanks to him, railway workers stand to lose over 400 jobs which will be felt most harshly in regional NSW. It won’t be easy for these workers to find employment again.

“Moreover, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) estimates indirect job losses could be in the order of 744 because the removal of rail services reduces the commercial viability of the towns affected.

“The termination of rail services, such as the Casino-Murwillumbah line, also means rail users will be herded onto buses and forced to endure long and uncomfortable trips. This is especially onerous for older people, people with disabilities or medical conditions.

“We call on everyone who wants first class rail services in NSW to join the rally at 12pm Thursday 16 September at Belmore Park near Central Station in Sydney. If we don’t save our railways from Michael Costa we may not have any in the near future” said Mr Mifsud.

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