



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931.

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

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004

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A MESSAGE TO JOHN WATKINS: FIX OUR AILING TRANSPORT SYSTEM

“Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA) congratulates John Watkins in his appointment as Minister for Transport Services. However, we want to send him a clear message – fix our ailing transport system” said Morrie Mifsud, CPSA State President.

“The problems with NSW public transport are obvious. A shortage of train drivers, the running down of train tracks thanks to overuse by freight transport, cutbacks to services and a lack of commitment to rail services on the part of the NSW Government.

“The previous Minister has closed rail lines such as the Casino to Murwillumbah line and intended to close the Broadmeadows to Newcastle line. This is just madness. We don’t need more traffic on our roads and we certainly need rail services as a convenient, energy efficient and user-friendly way to transport large numbers of people. Rail services are particularly useful for the frail aged and people with disabilities. To keep running them down is bad social and economic policy.

“It is also madness to expect public transport to run at a profit. It is service just as the police or ambulance services are. The philosophy that public transport must work like a private company has to be ditched.

“CPSA and the NSW public want to see our public transport system fundamentally reformed for the better. We hope to see Mr Watkins play a key role in this reform as long as he is Transport Services Minister” said Mr Mifsud.

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