



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931. Celebrating 75 years of service in 2006.

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

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004

MEDIA RELEASE

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CountryLink reforms fall short

“Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA) believes the recent \$32 million CountryLink reform package really falls short” said Bob Jay, CPSA spokesperson.

“The refurbishment of trains is welcome and greater options for buying tickets, such as through Australia Post outlets, will greatly assist pensioners and low-income retirees.

“We also applaud the commitment of the Minister to retaining rail services in regional NSW. Long bus journeys are very difficult for the frail aged, people with disabilities and the chronically ill and often deter them from travelling.

“However, introducing booking fees where they previously didn’t exist will mean, for instance, that pensioners travelling from Narrabri or Port Macquarie to Sydney will be paying an extra \$20 for a return journey – and of course more if they travel further.

“The Minister has not addressed the problem of the capping of concession places on CountryLink routes. It is no wonder that services are losing patronage if people can’t travel when they want to travel. Moreover, the Country Pensioner Excursion Ticket is now hardly used because it doesn’t apply to travel from rural NSW into major centres such as Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. The zones are ludicrous. You can travel on the one concession ticket from Sydney to Dungog but not to Gloucester because it is outside the CityRail zone. The zones should be abolished so concession travellers don’t face artificial barriers when they travel across the state.

“CPSA hopes that there will be a better consultation process with consumers when it comes to restructuring rail services” said Mr Jay.

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