

My name is Lionel John Pink. I was born in 1953. For 10 years I was placed on long term disability with a heart area accident. This situation has now been adapted too. I'm a personnel trainer who has only recently since the Lismore floods, registered my New Business model which is called THEATRICISE.

It is the experience in the cities right now, where people with a disability, the aged, school children, university students, businesspeople, actually the entire demographic, can simply get on a train and go to their destination in safety and with ease. This is not at all the situation for us in the northern rivers.

One would need to drive a vehicle on a rainy night on our potholed single lane windy country roads staring into the oncoming traffic lights while passing less of a metre apart from another car or worse a massive semitrailer passing at 100 kilometres an hour in the opposite direction, to fully understand.

Roads cannot compare to trains when it comes to moving large amounts of people in safety and relative ease, to arrive at a destination on time. The Northern Rivers regions roads are already overloaded, and we have 5000 houses scheduled to be built to relocate residents of the Lismore area up into the escarpment away from the floods. It's a nightmare scenario for our Regions Highways.

An extremely practical answer to disability transport issues is to upgrade our line and resume all services right throughout the region ASAP. Then our country will again have the capacity to again move all types of people, to go out again on excursions, visiting friends shopping etc and bring back the dignity of a gentler life, as everyone with a train service elsewhere in Australia now enjoys!

The resumption of our regions railway service would also bring in both local regional, national, and international tourism to our region, and in doing so generate the entire region's economy which has severely lacked since Railway services stopped. Trains assist people with mobility issues, it's the fact.

Highway traffic is increasing daily and sharing the roads with new users and very old users and many very tired etc and yet driving users, is a very bad accident waiting to happen. And they often do!

People shouldn't be put into this roulette wheel. If I seem passionate about this, it is because I do fully understand the issue. I have friends in their 80s and 90s who likewise recall the ease and convenience of rail travel, that our region used to offer. Petrol prices are going to only increase for road users. This is an Internationally recognised issue, that for some unknown reason is being completely overlooked.

Train services are necessary in order to build our Country into a MODERN NATION. Removing our existing railway line (they plan to do this) to replace it with a road and push bike track is ridiculous!!!

A person whatever their health, should be able to just hop on a train, sit down and gaze out the window, read or go to sleep and then arrive at their destination in safety instead of bleary-eyed tired people running the gauntlet nightly, as is quite often the case around here, these days.

Hardly any people in the northern rivers went to see the Commonwealth Games. I asked a Politician back then, what is the problem with fixing the Region train service before it's on, so that all types of people could easily attend it? The answer back was that I could get there by just catching three connected buses, go to the event and catch three connected buses back.

I suggested in my reply, that maybe he give this opportunity to his own wife and family and have them follow this procedure, and then he'd would get the feedback on that, for at least six months.

I will close in saying that staring down from planes and looking at our Northern Rivers region is not a good way to assess how things are flowing along on our highways. All is not as efficient as it may seem.

My experience last night 8/7/2022 of driving down a country road that connects two highways and having my right drivers side wheel drop into a deep pothole with a loud bang, at the same time that another car with headlights on full beam passed about metre away from me, by was not a good thing at all. highways unlike train services, are not meant for such huge volumes of constant traffic.

And the traffic in our region is MOST DEFINITELY going to increase because the trains aren't here.

In closing, I do HONESTLY believe that this something you really need to understand as being highly important as a NATION BUILDING PROJECT.

You'd understand my emotion if the trains were removed from your own life. People with all forms of disability (I don't like to apply this word as everyone has a different life experience I know this from Direct experience do need better assistance from the government than what is most definitely obvious is not at all good enough around here.

That's all I feel to say on this subject. I hope my words are heard, my emotion regarding this long-standing topic is understood, and that my Nation Building suggestions are swiftly acted upon.

My Sincere regards,

Lionel John Pink