



Mr Mike Rayner
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PUBLIC TRANSPORT STRATEGY.

TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL	
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Dear Mr Rayner

Queensland Border Bus Service Integration

— 46035067.

Thank you for your letter of 9 February 2012 to the Minister for Transport regarding cross border bus service integration. The Minister has requested that I respond on her behalf. I appreciated hearing your views in our recent telephone call and am pleased to confirm the following issues.

Transport for NSW is seeking to promote improved public transport in the Northern Rivers Region. As discussed I propose that this issue be addressed as part of the NSW Government Transport Masterplan process. On 24 February, Transport for NSW released the NSW Long Term Masterplan Discussion Paper. You can view the discussion paper at www.transportmasterplan.nsw.gov.au. The NSW Long Term Transport Masterplan will be a strategic document identifying a clear direction for transport over the next 20 years. It will focus on how to better connect and service the transport needs of all regions and provide a basis for further development of individual Regional Transport Plans that will be developed for each of the main regions, including the Northern Rivers.

The regional forum for the Northern Rivers was held in Lismore on 21 March 2012. Details of the regional forums and published at www.transportmasterplan.nsw.gov.au and in the local media leading up to the event. Although I have already brought your issues to the attention of the Transport Masterplan Team I encourage Tweed Council to continue to raise awareness of the issues concerning cross border bus integration so they can continue to be addressed as part of the Regional Transport Plan process.

I have also requested officers from the Transport Planning and Landuse Branches to examine the *Tweed Shire Council Public Transport Strategy*. The officers felt there was an opportunity to further explore some travel trends and issues, potentially during the Regional Transport Plan process, including:

- The origin and destinations of people on the Tweed and Gold Coasts travelling to work, and for education, shopping and social purposes, both now and in the future;
- Existing and future volumes of passengers using Coolangatta Airport and where they travel to and from prior to either arriving or leaving Coolangatta Airport; and
- Issues for potential NSW border region integration with the TransLink system and the *Go Card* ticketing system.

Lastly I note the appointment of Steve Toms as the State's first Cross Border Commissioner. The Cross Border Commissioner will work closely with border communities and stakeholders to strengthen cross-border arrangements and improve services affected by a community's border location, including health, business, transport, and agriculture.

Yours sincerely



27/3/12

Steve Enticott
General Manager, Transport Planning
Planning and Programs Division

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