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PO Box 5197 East Lismore PH: 02 6621 7730  
ABN 28 446 458 802  
**Business Registration:** Y 02941-36

*DFSV Housing and Specialist Homelessness Services Provider*

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20th November 2024

To whom it may concern,

Women Up North is an organisation working with women and children in the Northern Rivers and are excited by the prospect of the current proposal to bring extended train services back to the Northern Rivers railway line between Lismore and Yelgun, at the top of Byron Shire.

To have a frequent, reliable and sustainable rail service in the Northern Rivers would be a game changer for the people we work with and that we support through our organisation.

To counter traffic congestion and climate change, by taking vehicles off the road, rail is the way to go! Local roads are affected by high volumes of traffic so local ratepayers must bear the burden of continual road maintenance. Less traffic means less wear and tear, so less money will be needed by councils for repair.

It will be a win/win for the whole community and for the visitors to our region, with a bike path built beside a well time tabled train service running on the tracks. With a fence or a natural vegetation barrier between them, it will be a good community model and vision, for everyone of all ages to be able to use.

So many of the people we work with need to visit friends and family and go on outings for the mental health benefits. To know that they can easily and safely return later in the day or even at night will be a huge relief for many people.

We have one of the highest drink driving rates in the state because there is no option for some, if they want to go out for a few drinks than to have to drive.

We support the return of a low – zero emissions train service to our region to service our locals and tourists' non-road transport needs.



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We support the fact that local railway companies, Northern Rivers Railway and the Northern Regional Railway Company, are working to fix the line and bring rail services back to our region. For the elderly, the disabled, the youth, commuters, tourists & us all, we would like train services to return to the Northern Rivers.

Regards,

*J Knight-Smith*

Jillian Knight-Smith  
CEO Women Up North Housing