



Northern Rivers Rail Ltd

northernriversrailway@gmail.com

Dear Northern Rivers Rail Ltd,

Subject: Support for Northern Rivers Rail Ltd's Initiative for Public Transport Services Expansion

Currie Country Social Change (CCSC) wholeheartedly offer this letter of support for the crucial initiative undertaken by Northern Rivers Rail Ltd in advocating for the expansion and restoration of rail services across the Northern Rivers region. We recognise that access to reliable public transport is fundamental to ensuring equitable and efficient mobility for all residents, particularly our First Nation peoples within the Northern Rivers Bundjalung Nation, which numbers close to 10,000 people and rail is an essential step toward building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for our community.

The need for enhanced public transport options, such as low-emission train services, is particularly critical in connecting our communities to vital medical, educational, and social services in regional hubs like the Gold Coast and Sydney. Improved rail infrastructure will significantly benefit First Nations people who may otherwise face significant barriers to accessing such services due to geographic isolation or financial constraints.

Moreover, transitioning away from a car-dependent transport model aligns with broader climate environmental goals and the urgent need to reduce emissions in the face of escalating climate change impacts. The Northern Rivers region remains acutely vulnerable to climate extremes, including flooding events, making it imperative to establish resilient and reliable transport infrastructure. Currie Country has made significant submissions to government at all levels on these matters. Rail corridors offer a strategic, future-focused solution that will reduce traffic congestion, enhance public safety, and create a more sustainable regional economy.

Furthermore, CCSC emphasises that First Nations voices and direct representation of Traditional Owners must be central to the planning and development of all large-scale



infrastructure projects. This aligns with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and reflects CCSC's commitment to advocacy for equitable inclusion and recognition of Indigenous leadership in land and infrastructure use. We urge the State Government and relevant agencies to prioritise the protection, retention, and revitalization of rail corridors to ensure equity of access for all residents— particularly for health, education, and environmental outcomes.

CCSC supports Northern Rivers Rail Ltd's mission to extend train services through the Lismore and Byron Shires. This initiative stands to strengthen our regional economy, enhance social cohesion, and reduce environmental impacts while delivering essential public transport solutions. We stand with Northern Rivers Rail as a key civil partner in a smart sustainable region. Currie Country is currently at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan advocating for genuine green energy transformation and sincere First Nation engagements on such matters, we support Northern Rivers Ltd who are employing respectful First Nations community engagement in these aligned values.

We commend Northern Rivers Rail Ltd for its efforts to bring transformative change to our region, and we urge swift approval and necessary funding to ensure this vision becomes a reality.

Yours sincerely,



Arabella Douglas *BA LLB, GDLP BBUS(HONS) (1st Class) GAICD*

CEO/CSO

Currie Country Social Change

13 November 2024

CANA Member



