

An item in yesterday's Examiner mentioned your committee and the extension of time for submissions.

Accordingly I appreciate the opportunity to respond as follows:

Goiser

George Street

on 7250

334 1239

043 835 2600

karls@goiser.com

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To the
LEGISLATE COUNCIL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING HEALTH BUDGET CUTS
HOBART

Karl

208

Launceston

Phone: 6

Mobile:

e-mail:

During February of this year Premier Giddings announced an allocation of \$100 million to Tas Rail, with the commitment of further like funding for each of the following two years.

This was confirmed at budget time with the instruction that this funding be paid by Transend, the electricity wholesaler.

As reported in The Examiner (August 3) Sustainable Transport Minister Nick McKim has obtained offers and is right now ready to place orders for locomotives and rolling stock.

While the roads network infrastructure carries all public and private passengers as well as more than 90% of all freight the Tasmanian Railways carry only 6.5% of the freight task, most of which is bulk ore concentrate on the Melba line and cement from Railton to Devonport. (page 9, DIER publication "Tasmanian Rail Network", March 2011).

Tas Rail is of only minute importance to the Tasmanian economy and could no doubt keep on operating with existing equipment for a few more years.

Considering the dire consequences of the proposed budget cuts to health services it is my opinion that as a matter of utmost urgency these allocations of funds for Tas Rail, which are obviously available right now, be re directed to Health.

KARL GOISER