

Legislation Council
Enquiry into the Tasmania at North Eastern railway corridor

17/10/18

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am corresponding with you to provide a submission to the enquiry in support of a compromise solution for the Northeast railway corridor.

As an avid cyclist, I am wholeheartedly in support of the recreational track for cycling and walking from Launceston all the way to Scottsdale.

I believe that this be a synergistic addition to the vibrant tourism and cycling hub that exists in the Northeast of the state. Previous reports have shown that the economic modelling for such a cycling track is strong, positive and highly viable. Previous reports have shown that the economic modelling for the railway development is marginal. I would therefore be in preference of a cycling track extending from Launceston all the way to Scottsdale, rather than the proposed railway option for part or all of the Northeast corridor.

As an open-minded member of the community and small business owner, I am respectful of other people's beliefs, passions and business interests and I am open to the concept of providing an opportunity for part of the the Northeast railway corridor to be developed into a tourism railway (ie Launceston to Lilydale). I feel obliged to communicate to you that conversations I have had with members of the community supporting the railway development have a less open-minded approach and seem unwilling to compromise on any proposal apart from a total railway tourism development from Launceston to Scottsdale.

I personally find this uncompromising approach unhelpful and not very respectful, considerate or community minded. Should the enquiry support the railway development for part or all of the Northeast corridor, I would recommend a timeframe contingency be placed on such railway development proposal, in that the railway development must be fully operational within a certain time frame (I would suggest 2 years would be adequate). I would also recommend the enquiry outline that should the railway development fail to be funded and developed adequately within the specified time frame (which I think is highly likely due to the cost of upgrading the track), that the Launceston to Lilydale part of the Northeast corridor be automatically approved for use as a recreational trial, without the requirement for further costly and time consuming enquiries or reports. I also support the enquiry providing similar timeframes and contingencies for the recreational part of the trial, should this be recommended by the enquiry.

In the interest of fairness, equity and supporting all interest groups of the community in a balanced way, I reiterate strongly that at the very minimum the enquiry consider recommending a compromised development program involving both recreational and railway options for the Northeast corridor, namely a recreational trial from Lilydale to Scottsdale and a tourism railway development from Launceston to Lilydale.

Kind Regards



Dr George Hyde