The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

Ms Helen Minnican
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Re: LA PETITION - 500+ CLAYTON BARR - PASSENGER RAIL SERVICES; MAITLAND TO BELLBIRD

Dear Ms Minnican,

I write in response to the petition lodged in the Legislative Assembly on 12 March, by Mr Clayton Barr, regarding the Protection of the South Maitland Rail corridor and urgent reintroduction of passenger rail services; Maitland to Bellbird.

Transport for NSW is developing the Hunter Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan, which is due to be delivered in the next 12 months. The Hunter Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan will expand on previous transport plans and better reflect the needs of regional communities and will include detailed evaluations of the community's transport needs now and into the future.

The Hunter Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan will include economic opportunities and public transport options to support housing and jobs growth in the region and will also consider maximising the use of the existing transport network in the area, including rail, road and maritime infrastructure and services.

Transport for NSW welcomes the opportunity to continue the conversation with stakeholders, commuters, and the wider community in the coming months to ensure it delivers a plan that meets the needs of the Hunter now and into the future.

This will include looking at opportunities for increased passenger transport services, to provide greater choice in travel modes for the residential growth corridor west of Maitland as well as between Maitland and Kurri Kurri and Cessnock.

Any future decision to procure locally manufactured clean energy powered rolling stock would be subject to relevant NSW Government policies.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Aitchison MP
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads