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## **RAIL JOURNEYS TOO SLOW**

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, has called on the NSW Government to pay more attention to the needs of rail users from Lake Macquarie and the Lower Hunter.

In 1998 the Government had plans for a high-speed rail service to the Central Coast by 2007 and to Newcastle by 2010. So far there have been no visible steps toward this result.

"What we have is a service that takes 8 minutes longer than the Flyer could do in 1937" said Mr Piper. "It's disappointing and sad that service has been declining, rather than improving."

"The steam train that delivered a better service seventy years ago was visionary. We need a vision and commitment to provide a 21st Century transport system to suit a first-world country."

Mr Piper has also called on the Government to ensure that Lake Macquarie travellers are consulted in future CityRail customer surveys, as well as the other areas serviced by CityRail.

"CityRail runs trains to this area. Why are we left out of the consultation?" said Mr Piper "One of the issues considered is travelling times. Why are those with the longest journeys not asked for an opinion?"