

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP
52 Martin Place,
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister Constance,

Re: Bikes on Trains

For years our members have been writing to us about the difficulty they face taking bikes on Country Link trains.

Currently bike riders are required to disassemble bikes and put them in boxes for transport, and to book the box onto the train. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that there will be space for the boxed bike to be carried. Accommodating other luggage, and the manual handling requirement that two staff carry the box, may mean the bike is unable to be carried on the service the passenger needs to travel on.

This makes it difficult for riders who want to travel by train and connect their 'last mile' by bike in towns and areas where there is little or no public transport. It also makes bike-packing and tourism by bike more difficult.

Over the past 2.5 years I have tried to reach someone to discuss this with, to no avail. I am aware that the Country Link trains are due to be replaced. I would ask that you consider improving storage to enable bikes to be wheeled on and off the new trains. From the consistent interest expressed to Bicycle NSW, we believe it would be worthwhile investment.

As we have seen from the Tubarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail, there is a great enthusiasm for bike-based tourism. This has the potential to generate revenue and create jobs across NSW.

I participated in a consultation exercise with designers on bike storage for the intercity trains, and would be happy to do so again when you are planning configuration of the Country Link trains. Thank you for your consideration.
Yours Sincerely

Bastien Wallace

Bastien Wallace BA LLB
General Manager of Public Affairs
Bicycle NSW