PETITION AGAINST RAIL LINE CLOSURE – IMPROVE NOT REMOVE

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament Assembled.

This petition of citizens of New South Wales brings to the attention of the House our concerns that the NSW Government intends to change the Transport Administration Act section 99A which states:

99A Closure and disposal of railway lines

(1) A rail infrastructure owner must not, unless authorised by an Act of Parliament, close a railway line.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a railway line is closed if the land concerned is sold or otherwise disposed of or the railway tracks and other works concerned are removed.

The specific intention of the Act is to protect transport infrastructure which has been providing a valuable transport service to the community and which is capable of continuing to provide for future expanding needs.

The Act in its current form protects The Newcastle Rail Line and others throughout NSW.

Regional communities rely on rail for transport of wheat and other produce, for passenger services to access city services, for connecting inland towns to coastal amenities, for intercity passenger links including for tourism and for efficient transport to schools and tertiary educational facilities.

There are concerns regarding the loss of heritage items, including historic rail lines and stations.

The undersigned petitioners ask members of the legislative assembly to resist changes to the Transport Administration Act which would allow the disposal of rail lines and the downgrading of rail services.

NAME *Please PRINT your name*	**ADDRESS** *Give your full home address*	**SIGNATURE** *Sign your own name.* *Do not print.*

Please return completed petition forms to Save Our Rail NSW Inc, PO Box 212, Islington 2296 NSW.