



Paul Toole
Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE PEOPLE BACK ON REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Regional transport services will be able to carry greater numbers of passengers to the bush from July 1 as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole said health experts had advised that capacity on all modes of public transport can now be increased in a COVID safe way.

“We want to see people back in our regions so it is great news we can now activate the next stage of the COVIDSafe Transport Plan,” Mr Toole said.

From next month, the regional NSW TrainLink rail fleet will allow for 34 customers per carriage, up from 16, while coaches will allow for 22 customers, up from 12.

“The new physical distancing capacities will mean more people will be able to book ahead on our regional rail and coach services and take trips to popular regional destinations for the July school holidays,” Mr Toole said.

“For those who use our intercity fleet or regional buses, especially travelling to and from work or school, you should continue to find the green dots for the safest places to sit and stand. This will mean not sitting directly next to, in front of, or behind anyone.

“While capacities will increase, we still encourage you to plan ahead and check travel apps before setting off on your journey to see which services have space available.

“As per previous advice - no school student or person with a disability will be turned away from public transport - even if this means physical distancing may not be possible.”

Mr Toole reiterated the safety of customers and staff remain the priority on all regional services – and encouraged people to maintain physical distancing and good hygiene while travelling.

“Enhanced cleaning measures will continue to be implemented across the network with more than 240,000 extra hours of cleaning already carried out by hundreds of additional cleaners since the start of March,” Mr Toole said.

“Marshalling Response and Support Teams will also remain on the ground to help customers move through stations safely and monitor physical distancing at key hubs including Lismore, Shellharbour, Bathurst, Nowra, Tweed, Albury and Bega.”

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