

# Media Release

## Peter Crisp MLA

Member for Mildura

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### **BRUMBY STYMIES CRITICISM OVER MILDURA PASSENGER SERVICE**

The Nationals Member for Mildura Peter Crisp has accused the Brumby Government of thwarting debate on its \$38 billion transport plan.

Mr Crisp said the plan, which relies on more than \$10 billion of federal funding and includes projects not due to start for another six years, ignored the government's promise to return passenger rail services to Mildura.

"Labor promised to return the Mildura passenger train more than a decade ago yet its long term plan makes absolutely no mention of the service," Mr Crisp said.

"I had hoped to use the Parliamentary debate on the *Transport Integration Bill* to ask the Minister to clarify why Mildura was overlooked in the plan.

"I am amazed that, despite the commencement of a feasibility study to return the train, the government's promises have not been accommodated in its grand plan.

"The new Public Transport Minister must show how a successful feasibility study will fit with a transport plan that will soon be legislation."

Mr Crisp said Premier Brumby had used Parliament this week for blatant self promotion, outlining the government's activities and applauding Labor's handling of water, crime and transport.

"As a result, little time was left to debate more important issues such as the flaws in its transport plan and many Coalition MPs weren't given an opportunity to speak on the bill," Mr Crisp said.

"As so often is the case with this government, they don't want to hear the concerns of regional Victoria."

Mr Crisp said Mildura remained the last major regional centre not serviced by passenger rail.

"The return of passenger rail is of vital importance to Mildura and I will continue to work to ensure it is placed on the government's agenda," Mr Crisp said.

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