

Attention - Manager Centres and Urban Renewal
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
Urban renewal Newcastle Submission

18th April 2013

Ms Bobbie Antonic
Manager
Newcastle Skate 1/11 Watt St Newcastle 2300

Newcastle is a people place already! It is an event city.

I attended the Community Information Sessions on Wednesday 20 February at Newcastle City Hall. It wasn't engaging, informing, consulting or involving community as it was suppose to be. A question I asked was, "*What recent evidence do you have that businesses in the city centre supports the removing of the rail line.*" The GM Hunter Development Corporation Bob Hawes said *that HDC were a committee that was involved, so NO small businesses like ours were part of it!* Hunter Development Corporation is a stakeholder and I am certain they have given incorrect data regarding transport i.e. – rail in Newcastle.

Another question I asked, "*Was the green corridor to stay "green" as public land.* So I would presume it wouldn't be built on. Bob Hawe said *that it shall be available to be built on!* (So in other words public place won't be preserved). Both answers from Mr Hawe were very concerning.

Our business has been in Hunter st / Watt st for 17years. No one asked for our opinions. Our business thrives with rail being there. This is what I have seen in the past 17years. When there is scheduled track work on the line, the town is pretty much dead. People decide not to bother with trains then a bus to Newcastle. I have seen this over and over.

Small business is extremely hard and with NSW Government wanting to cut the rail, this will bring us to our knees.

We are a speciality store; people come to us from far away and all over Australia. At the moment, tourists enjoy being able to get off at Newcastle Station and visit us, cafes, beach, doctors etc.

Small business wants the rail to stay into Newcastle. I have spoken to many small business owners in Newcastle and I have heard the same, that is - we want the Newcastle rail to stay and the line to stay. The Newcastle Alliance does not speak for us. The Hunter Development Corporation does not speak for us; Hunter Business Chamber does not speak for us. These groups have not informed the NSW Government the correct information.

There are 1.88 million small businesses, which represents over 95% of all business in Aust.
Regional Australia -approx 35% small businesses operate in Regional Australia. Small businesses in town, our voice needs to be listened too.
The rail needs to be retained.

There is no city today that would in its worst moments consider ending their central train services.

East End you say will be bolstered retail.... Without the Rail at Newcastle Station, retail will suffer.

The University campus being added in Newcastle will bring people to Newcastle, and extra jobs in the city. Public Transport like trains will be needed to Newcastle Station. Staff for the university will most likely have children and they will travel to work in Newcastle via the train. Please reconsider – the rail must stay.

Your strategy seems to be a concept plan only. A lot of it doesn't make sense.

. (Hunter Street to have a “bus clearway” only inbound, not outbound, also to have one lane each way and tree planting.) Hunter Street works well as is. With events in Newcastle all the time, one lane is very very wrong. Two lanes are needed. Traffic both directions needed. Tree planting is a waste of money.

Wheeler Place planting of palm trees is also wrong. Wheeler Place works well now with business can lease the land for events i.e. – ice skating rink. Community input about what palm trees to use is a joke!

The concept plan talks of seamless. There is nothing seamless in your strategy. Your strategy doesn't care about the disabled, children, parents!

Yours Sincerely

Bobbie Antonic

