

>>> ElectorateOffice Wakehurst <ElectorateOffice.Wakehurst@parliament.nsw.gov.au> 3/18/2013 8:58 am
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-----Original Message-----

From: Dr Elizabeth Baynham [mailto:elizabeth.baynham@newcastle.edu.au]

Sent: Sunday, 17 March 2013 9:44 AM

To: ElectorateOffice Wakehurst

Subject: Brad Hazzard Contact: keeping heavy rail into Newcastle Station

To: Webmaster

From:

Dr Elizabeth Baynham

elizabeth.baynham@newcastle.edu.au

Suburb

Stockton

Message:

Dear Mr Hazzard,

I am writing to urge you and your government to reconsider the decision to terminate the heavy rail at Wickham Station, Newcastle.

While I am aware that this is a deeply divisive issue, I believe that cutting the heavy rail to Newcastle Station is not the answer to the problem of re-vitalizing Newcastle. I am 54 and can remember Hunter St and Newcastle CBD as a bustling and vibrant commercial centre - and the railway was there then. Leaving

the costa side of ripping up rail lines - or building over them - It does not seem a good idea to remove major transport infrastructure such as rail at a time when cities the world over are looking to increase the use of trains and trams and decrease dependence on cars and buses. Also, on a local note, as the University of Newcastle is planning to expand its CBD campus, surely rail transport would be needed more than ever? I might add that at the moment, Civic Station offers easy and convenient access to Newcastle Museum - a major tourist attraction. Why destroy a facility that is already there?

I also suspect that the people who want to terminate the rail and use the corridor for something else are those who rarely - if ever - use it. Taking away the trains will disadvantage many - from residents of Maitland and the upper Hunter, to young people with bikes and surfboards, backpackers and those who find it difficult to use buses due to medical conditions (like my partner).

Moreover, it seems in appropriate to liken the railway to the "Berlin Wall" - merely to evoke an image of a barrier. History also shows that people have died for railways - either in their defense or their construction. This says something about their importance.

Please Mr Hazzard; reconsider this decision. I am sure that there are other solutions for Newcastle.

With thanks for your consideration and best wishes, Elizabeth

Dr Elizabeth Baynham,
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Newcastle.

Sent from (ip address): 203.18.58.20 (203.18.58.20)
Date/Time: March 16, 2013 10:43 pm
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