

Clayton Barr, MP

STATE MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORATE OF CESSNOCK

Our Ref: CB1-ElectorateOffice-Pla130114-1411

14 January 2013

17 JAN 2013

The Hon Brad Hazzard, MP
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Level 33, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Brad
Dear Minister

I refer to your recent decision to cut the Newcastle Train Line at Wickham, preventing trains into the Civic and Newcastle stations.

I seek further detail and clarification around factors that led to this decision and future planning, modelling and costs.

1. What modelling and planning for the new Wickham terminal is available to inform the public debate and comment on this issue?
2. Was Railcorp consulted to discuss infrastructure needs at the proposed new Wickham terminal?
3. What will be the total cost of this project including construction of the new terminal, construction of bus interchange, removal of existing infrastructure east of the new Wickham terminal, development of public "green corridor", modification of buses that will allow for transport of bikes, surfboards, etc, and any other building, construction and infrastructure costs?
4. Which Government department will have responsibility and authority during the development, planning and construction phases?
5. Were there any surveys or community consultation processes used to inform the decision? If so who, when and where were these conducted and who was involved?
6. Was there any consideration and risk assessment for the installation of more level crossings, vehicle and/or pedestrian along the line east of Wickham?

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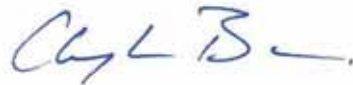
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The mantra of this Government has been that decisions would be made with detailed planning, full transparency and public disclosure, and of course public consultation (please don't give me the nonsense about Public Consultation happening now, AFTER the decision).

The Newcastle Rail Line decision seems to be anything BUT this!

If these details are available, and publicly accessible, then this is your opportunity to identify the source(s) to this interested and affected Member of Parliament and his constituency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CLB', followed by a horizontal line.

CLAYTON BARR, MP
State Member for the
Electorate of Cessnock

*cc: Minister for Transport
The Hon Gladys Berejiklian*