

Mia Bromley
58 Nobbys Road
Newcastle East, 2300

Manager
Centres and Urban Renewal
Department Planning and Infrastructure
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY 2001

Friday, 19 April 2013

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy,

I write as a resident and property owner in Newcastle, and as a public health practitioner with a Masters in Public Health.

I would like to commend the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on the inclusion in the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy of provisions supporting increased use of public and active transport in Newcastle.

I would also like to call for the retention of the existing rail infrastructure to the Newcastle CBD.

In light of the significant predicted increase in population and increase in the number of workers in the CBD I am dismayed at proposals to remove the existing public transport infrastructure and the lack of attention to planning for adequate public transport provision to the city centre.

The proposal for bus services to replace the current train services, from Wickham and from Broadmeadow, does not promote equitable access to the amenity of the CBD and beachfront amenity. Further, the facilitation of access to the city via public transport is important for promoting sustainable and healthy access to employment, and workforce, and will be of benefit to Newcastle in the longer term.

I am also concerned about the effects of the removal of the train line on the value of my property. Proximity to the train line was one of the major considerations in my decision to purchase property in Newcastle East as I frequently use the train to travel to Sydney for work.

Conversely, in my role as Health Planning Managers at the Hunter Medicare Local, I work in close partnership with a number of Sydney based organisations. Colleagues often attend meetings in Newcastle and travel by train from Sydney to the CBD. They are able to work on the train, and are able to catch the train directly to the meeting location.

I believe the removal of the rail line to be short sighted and contrary to the general global movement towards increased use of public and active transport. I fear that Newcastle will come to regret the decision as time goes on.

I look forward to hearing of the outcome of this consultation process.

Kind Regards,

Mia Bromley.