

urbanrenewal - Maitland to Newcastle rail line closure *Opposed

From: Chris <cambo57@hotmail.com>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/25/2013 1:22 PM
Subject: Maitland to Newcastle rail line closure *Opposed

Hello,

Myself and my family only moved to East Maitland 1 year ago from the outback 1000kms away. Our new life here is very exciting especially for my 2 teenagers who have found a new found freedom with public transport.

My 14 year old son has taken up surfing and loves it. Well you can imagine that our hearts were crushed when we heard the train line to Newcastle was to be stopped.

There are many kids that travel on that line to go surfing or skating within Newcastle. My son goes armed with money in his pocket to buy his drinks and lunch in Newcastle, so they are supporting local businesses.

What if there are 20 surfboards plus skateboards on the train and they have to change at Wickham to a bus. Will the bus driver allow these 20 surfboards and skateboards onto his bus ??

My son can sometimes go to the beach with 4 mates, so there's 5 surfboards alone without anyone else on the train. So where will the surfboards be put on the bus?

They surely can't go in a trailer or underneath, as they may get stolen while the kids are seated up in the bus.

And you say that there will be a seamless connection from train to buses at Wickham, I surely doubt that. My daughter recently started her HSC and one of her subjects she takes at TAFE Glendale Tuesday afternoons 4-8pm. This involves a train to Waratah, then a bus to Crossroads Glendale then another half hour walk to Tafe Glendale.

The first week it connected beautifully, the second week the train departed Maitland on time but arrived at Waratah half hour late! She told me it snail crawled along the tracks.

She only had 8 mins to connect, so missed the bus and there wasn't another one for a long time. Being new to the area and panicking at that point I didn't know what to tell her to do!

Frantic my 16 year old daughter (from the outback) was stranded at Waratah, I took 45 mins to drive down to her and pick her up to drive her to TAFE another ½ hour, so you can imagine she was very late to class. So now I have committed to driving her every Tuesday from East Maitland for the next year as I do not trust the connections with public transport.

Many of my new friends tell me the public transport often fails and never to trust it.

So I dearly would love the Maitland – Newcastle train line left as is, for the sake of all up the Hunter. Changing onto a bus at Wickham has many challenges as I have listed above.

Please respond to me on where the surfboards will go? And if the train is late, will the bus wait?

I am very much opposed to this change of rail system. Thank you

Regards
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