

**urbanrenewal - Truncation of Railway Line to Newcastle at Wickham**

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**To:** <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 3/3/2013 4:24 PM  
**Subject:** Truncation of Railway Line to Newcastle at Wickham

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To Whom it may concern,

My wife and I wish to indicate our displeasure at the somewhat 'cavalier' attitude to the concerns of the people of Newcastle and it's environs. We live in Cessnock, and have great interests in the projected plan to truncate the heavy rail line at Wickham. This projection will force passengers going into Newcastle to catch a bus from there and return to Wickham to resume their train journey. This is a relatively short distance, but the reality is the inconvenience caused to a broad range of the travelling passengers. Buses, at present, are not designed to stow cases, bicycles, surfboards, prams and disability equipment.

Can we be assured that extra staff will be available to deal with this situation and maintain their requisite timetable ?

Can we be assured that the proposed 'bus substitution' will be as efficient and travel 'friendly' as the existing train service ?

Why is it necessary to replace trains with buses at great cost, yet the 'corridor' will remain in place 'for future' use ?

Are we to believe that only the army of Developers and anti-rail advocates know how to steer our future ?

It appears this decision was made with no input from the people who will be most affected.

Mr O'Farrell, our Premier, had stated that the decision would be made by the people of Newcastle.

It seems that Democracy has lost it's way in this issue.

Sincerely

Daryl and Maureen Burlin