

## urbanrenewal - Submission to Urban renewal strategy - Newcastle Line truncation at Wickham

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**Date:** 3/16/2013 9:26 PM  
**Subject:** Submission to Urban renewal strategy - Newcastle Line truncation at Wickham

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 Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
 GPO Box 39  
 SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Date:

Ref: 130306-1334

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### **Submission to Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy**

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I want to make the following submission in regards to the so-called "truncation" of the rail line into Newcastle.

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When my husband and I moved to Stockton in 2009 one of the aspects that attracted us to this beautiful city was the rail link to Sydney. It provides a very convenient way to commute, both when I was working in Sydney and now I am retired, to visit family and friends. Both my husband and I are regular users of the train.

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We cannot understand why the government would wish to take away a rail service in the inner city and replace it with buses. This will make travel by public transport in Newcastle very inconvenient due to the change from rail to bus at the Wickham interchange and increased traffic congestion, both adding to journey time. In other parts of the country, as well as overseas, new railways are being built to reduce road congestion and time spent commuting.

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As a resident of Stockton this will add considerable time to my journeys having to change at Wickham then again at Queens Wharf. Will the train connection with the Stockton ferry be taken into consideration when the line is terminated at Wickham? Will there be additional ferry services going from Wickham to Stockton via Honeysuckle and Queens Wharf to increase public transport options within the city precinct?

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Already in Newcastle public transport is an unattractive option due to the poor service provided, consequently most people use their cars to get around. This additional inconvenience will only encourage people to use their cars more often adding to road congestion. The environmental impact that this will have makes the decision to truncate the rail line at Wickham irresponsible and short sighted.

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Only by providing a better train service will you get people to use it. Currently it is not good enough for most people so they drive. If the rail link between Sydney and Newcastle were improved with faster, cleaner and more reliable services, more people would be able to commute between the two cities. This should include an express service with major stops only and regular all station services. Cutting the line at Wickham would spoil any chances of improving this service and making

Newcastle a tourist hotspot.

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Before taking away this vital link, please consider the impact this decision will have on the future of Newcastle for all citizens and not concede to the interests of a selfish minority.

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Yours sincerely,

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