

Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning & Infrastructure
P.O. Box 405
DEE WHY NSW 2099

11th March, 2013



REMOVAL OF TRAIN SERVICES TO NEWCASTLE

Dear Mr Hazzard,

I believe there needs to be much more community consultation in regards to this matter. More consultation with the people who actually USE this service, not with people who have vested interests in the land that will be left vacant. I do not believe it will be left as green-space.

It takes 4 minutes to get from Wickham Station to Newcastle Station by train. I can only guess how long it will take after we get off the train at Wickham, get on a bus (environmentally-very unclean), travel down Hunter St (amid the even larger volume of traffic).

Consultation should NOT be with the developers first and only. Consultation should be with the communities along the rail line, people actually who use the service, ie Maitland, Singleton, Scone, Dungog, Central Coast, people who actually depend on the service to get to and from their workplace. Newcastle does need revitalising but not with high-rise buildings only. Stopping the rail service at Wickham and building bigger, better buildings will NOT get people into Newcastle.

Does anybody realize that it is the emergence of the big ,brassy shopping centers that has killed off Newcastle CBD.

I also believe that there are a number of self-interest groups and developers far too involved in the decision-making process. Once again, no-one wants to listen to the little people.

Newcastle must be the only city in the world where Govt/developers want to remove a valuable piece of infrastructure and replace it with a bus. Build over the top and don't waste taxpayers money ripping up the rail.

Newcastle has many assets and one of them is a rail service that takes you almost all the way to our wonderful beaches. Lets improve it.....

Regards

Peter and Sharon Carey
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