



PCU042563

NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE RAIL DEBATE

Message to:

New South Wales Department of Planning and infrastructure re the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy.

Please be advised that I accept the need for additional access from Hunter Street to the harbour side of the rail line. However this could be achieved without a total rail line removal.

- There could be additional pedestrian footpaths over the rail line. Allowance for wheel chairs included.
- Additional traffic crossings. One is waiting to gain access from Honeysuckle Drive near the Water Board Office.
- The Newcastle Herald on March 2, 2013 included an article 'The 13-point plan to end the arguments'. No doubt you have been advised of this article. The 40km speed limit from Wickham to Newcastle was interesting. I agree with the idea of lowering the lines and create the equivalent of a tram rail. This worked very well in Manchester, UK. Reference to the City Centre in Melbourne was worth considering.
- Whatever solution is found must include a continuation of some form of rail transport into Newcastle City Centre.
- As you would know the City Centre population will increase, many people will travel daily from surrounding areas to work, shop and enjoy the City and harbour location. Easy access in and out must be available.
- The meeting at the City Hall, and reported in the Newcastle Star February 27, discussed the need for a 'seamless travel' option.

Whatever solution is decided upon must avoid the debacle of the Laman Street, Newcastle, Fig Tree activity in recent time. An expensive waste of Ratepayers money.

Signed

William Cook

104/15 Honeysuckle Drive
Newcastle, NSW 2300

12 March, 2013

