



Two More Trains For Singleton

A campaign for two additional daily passenger rail services from Newcastle to Singleton

27 February 2013

Manager, Centres and Urban Renewal
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy 2012 - Submission

Two More Trains for Singleton wishes to make a submission in response to the exhibition of the draft Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy 2012.

The preparation of a strategy for inner Newcastle is welcome. However, it cannot be effectively implemented without considering regional and national transport accessibility and the economic and social functioning of the Hunter Region as a whole. Both these matters are ignored.

Two More Trains for Singleton is working with the community and NSW Government to achieve additional daily CityRail services between Singleton and Newcastle to improve the frequency and accessibility of current services to the Upper Hunter Region. Passenger rail links to Sydney, the North Coast and interstate, and provides access to specialist regional services in Newcastle.

Regional and national transport accessibility - The proposed Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy 2012 ignores regional accessibility needs, and the desirability and economic benefit of retaining the rail link to Newcastle station. Singleton and Upper Hunter residents use rail to access services and recreational facilities in the centre of Newcastle and will be significantly inconvenienced and disadvantaged by the proposal to change transport modes.

The rail network is the backbone of urban public transport, and removing an efficient rail linkage and reducing accessibility by replacing trains with buses is bad planning and bad economics. The Strategy is inward looking and fails to encourage the continuation or extension of the regional functions that Newcastle requires if it is to reverse the trends of past decades.

Needs of children, aged, disabled, and disadvantaged are ignored - The proposed actions and transport arrangements in the Strategy will discourage a large proportion of the population and reduce accessibility to facilities in Newcastle. This will contribute to it becoming a less livable city.

Wish list or practical plan? - The Strategy is simply not a practical response to the imperative to have a coherent regional public transport plan for Newcastle, without which the city centre cannot be economically and socially sustainable. Most of the actions in the proposed Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy 2012 can be carried out while retaining the existing rail to Newcastle. There is no imperative or justification to proceed with a rail closure at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

for **Two More Trains For Singleton**