

Susan Kiprovich

From: Brian & Julie <garciafamily1@bigpond.com>
Sent: Friday, 11 January 2013 1:05 PM
To: Public Hazzard's Office Email
Subject: Newcastle rail line

To the Hon Bradley Ronald Hazzard, Minister for planning and Infrastructure.

I wish to voice my concerns on the approval to cut the current rail line at Wickham and close Newcastle station.

I think this is a real slap in the face to Maitland residents who use this rail link to get into the Newcastle cbd.

They talk of regenerating Newcastle and getting people in there, so my question is, why would you take away the infrastructure that gets them there.

My family regularly uses the rail link to go to the beach which is just a short walk across the park, Myself and my partner use the rail line to go to the many restaurants and bars that are now being established from the Queens Wharf Brewery through to the Honeysuckle precinct.

Our neighbour in a wheel chair uses this service regularly as well, how is she expected to get off at Wickham and try and catch a bus down to the Nobby's beach and foreshore.

One of the arguments is about parking, well that is simple as well, take the money that they are proposing to spend on this and build a car park around and over the existing rail line not only creating car parking but also covering any eye sores.

The other issue is the rail crossing at Wickham, what's the old saying.

Build a bridge and get over it.

Most people are used to traveling along the foreshore side for the honeysuckle or beaches and the city side for their inner city needs.

I would really like to see the Mercury and Maitland district in whole to get behind our rail line and fight for it.

Lets not close it, but instead strengthen it by electrifying the Maitland line and providing better and larger trains that you don't have to stand up on due to over crowding.

Thank you a concerned Maitland resident.