

17 James Street,
Morpeth, NSW 2321
15 November 2012

The Honourable Brad Hazzard, M.P.,
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000



Dear Minister,

I read with interest your statement on the Newcastle rail line reported in The Newcastle Herald (Wednesday, 14 November, 2012).

I was encouraged to read that you were quoted as saying "the government continues to consider the issues and listen to all sides of the debate".

I have noted that the report states "A decision (on the rail) is tipped before the end of the year".

However, I am deeply concerned that the member for Newcastle, Mr. Owens, the member for Charlestown, Mr. Connell, the member for Port Stephens, Mr. Baumann, and the member for Swansea, Mr. Edwards, according to the same report, favour the removal of the line. I am pleased that the member for Maitland and the member for the Environment* and the member for the Upper Hunter, Mr. Sounis, are opposed to the removal on the grounds that it would reduce transport services for their electorates.

I support retaining the line for these reasons:

- * it serves extremely well the Hunter Valley, the Central Coast, the North of Sydney and it will be most inconvenient for travellers to have to transfer to buses if the line were removed.
- * Its removal will add to the already serious congestion of motor traffic and parking problems in Newcastle.
- * London, Paris, New York and many other cities retain railway lines running to the heart of their CBDs with obvious benefits to travellers.

I appeal to you to support Mr. Parker and Mr. Sounis and to do your utmost to have the line retained.

* Mr. Parker

Yours sincerely
George Sarnes (GEORGE GARNSEY)