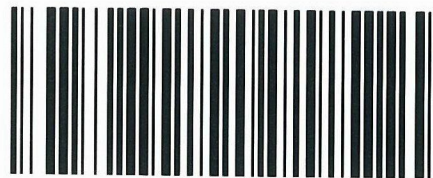


Submission – Revitalising Newcastle



PCU042564

Beside looking at super-imposed visions of Newcastle the way it is conveyed in the Strategy material, the way to revitalise Newcastle is to finance the Council (which is broke) to :

Fix the magnificent Town Hall.

Fix the equally magnificent Post Office.

Fix the Lord Mayor's plan to extend the library building for an extension of the art gallery and use the Post Office for the Library.

Upgrade the poor state of Hunter Street with new footpaths and proper water mitigation.

KEEP THE RAIL for use by those alighting to go to the new Courthouse and the students that we have been led to believe will study in a new Campus in the existing Central Business District (CBD).

KEEP THE RAIL into Newcastle Station for the Tourists and lowly citizens like myself who find train travel invaluable.

KEEP THE RAIL for the youngsters who need to get to the beach from places like Maitland and Huntley Estate let alone disadvantaging people of surrounding suburbs and the Upper Hunter.

Fix the Newcastle Railway Station building. Perhaps into accommodation and/or convention Centre.

KEEP THE RAIL for the Festivals and for mass evacuation of people in emergencies.

PUT IN THE OVERHEAD ROAD AT STEWART AVENUE. It was planned in 1965! This is the smart thing to do and will remove the angst from the rail. Narrowing Hunter Street near Stewart Avenue as suggested in the documentation would be disastrous! There is a traffic jam there every afternoon now (because the overpass was not put in as planned). Removing the rail will not fix this.

Other ways to save money:

Get rid of the Honeysuckle/Hunter Development Corporation that stopped looking after Newcastle almost a decade ago when they had to start "financing themselves". They sold off the land that was to be parkland and put huge ugly buildings there instead - and then had the hide to say the rail is ugly!

Downsize staff who depicted the fairy tale images on the promotional video. I can especially relate to the images of Hunter Street in the West End because I own a 2 storey building shown at 26 storeys high. The only people to gain from the removal of the rail is the Hunter Development Corporation.

I hope I have enlightened you. More common sense is needed. The 10,000 new residents won't happen in the way depicted in the Renewal Strategy (jobs plucked out of the air) but it will happen slowly as the CBD is improved with basic amenities. Put infrastructure in not remove it! A public toilet opening after 4:30pm in the Mall Shopping area for example would be a start!

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