

urbanrenewal - Please save our rail

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Date: 4/15/2013 7:53 PM
Subject: Please save our rail
Attachments: Submission.Centres&UrbanRenewal.p.1.pdf;
Submission.Centres&UrbanRenewal.p.2.pdf

Manager
Centres and Urban Renewal
Department Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir or Madam

Attached is my submission which simply explains why
I support the retention of the rail line for future transport
into Newcastle.

It is personal; however, I am very aware that everything
requires the rail.

Who will benefit from the intercity rail being cut?
Not the majority of our population, now or in the
future.

Yours sincerely
Denise Hartley

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a resident of Kotara, a suburb of Newcastle, and my family and I are extremely concerned that the cutting of the line into the CBD and the coast is imminent, and with that will go the "easy: direct access" to the Newcastle beach front for locals from the outer suburbs and towns: kids with surf boards; low socio-economic families; the local business employees et al; and many tourists will be disadvantaged together with all individuals with disabilities.

This very personal comment is being submitted, because the harbour and foreshore areas are for every age group: with or without physical disabilities. Multiple changes of transport do not assist any of us. Who will benefit from the intercity rail being cut? Not the majority of the population.

I have stayed six months in a unit backing onto the rail line, and know inner city residents who have happily paid for their "new and expensive" apartments which do the same. The nearness of Newcastle Station is acceptable; especially with its provision for passengers with physical disabilities (including the wheelchair bound). This is viewed as "security of access" for economical travel when needed by many long term residents of Newcastle and their visitors.

Newcastle Station was restored at great expense. And is needed now; and into the future. Our beautiful city is for all: this includes our large low socio-economic and middle class groups of new and long term residents, who are the greater percentage of the population. Tourists are always welcomed and admire it, including its lack of steep steps, commenting on what a great day trip the train trip, up from Sydney, to Newcastle is as a destination for a one day outing.

Some overseas cities are re-instating rail into CBD areas. This is for the benefit of both business and recreation: for locals and visitors alike.

It simply is not acceptable - in twenty-first century Australia - that a perfectly good public transport rail system should be even partially dismantled to satisfy a few. Individuals or groups of adults and children – physically fit or with varying degrees of disability – need to catch the train to and from Newcastle city and its linked coastal recreation areas. The demand on its usage will build again, because people are living longer and the population is growing. Believe me train travel is best for everyday public transport. And any journey short or long requiring changing modes – in all weathers – is not inviting to any person. And near impossible for those with a disability.

Do planners realise that thousands of individuals in wheelchairs cannot leave them independently to board and exit a train, to then board a bus; then exit it, and cross to another boarding area to complete his or her journey by travelling on a third mode of "public transport" to reach his or her destination for the day?

Do they actually know: genuinely know; any individuals with disabilities of any description particularly, physical?

Many: if not most human beings value independence. Take that rail out and that independence will be removed from many. And I know active octogenarians who live where they do because the rail line continues right into the CBD, harbour and sea shore exits. They sensibly planned ahead: by living where they can access the city section when they stop driving. Many already need the train – which some few persons want to remove. What a blessing, Newcastle Station has no steps or ramps! You

simply step on and off the train from an excellent platform. And travel to Sydney or other destinations where the same situation exists.

Have you recently, or ever, experienced the inconvenience caused to each and every passenger using a public transport system which requires "passengers to enter and leave multiple vehicles and modes of conveyance" to travel from home to school, work, or simply for a driving free visit to family, friends or the beach?

Please help us by just saving the rail now.

And we can plan for our growing population's future needs more carefully: by considering the needs of the whole population. **The rail right into Newcastle Station is a necessity.**

Yours sincerely
Denise Hartley