

urbanrenewal - Proposed closure of end of Newcastle railway line

From: "Robert Henderson" <robkit.henderson@bigpond.com>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/14/2013 10:49 PM
Subject: Proposed closure of end of Newcastle railway line

The Manager
Centres and Urban Renewal
Department Planning and Infrastructure
GPO BOX 39
SYDNEY 2001

Dear Sir

As a user of the Sydney-Newcastle railway service, I see the proposed closure of the end of the railway line to Newcastle as being short-sighted in the extreme.

In an age where rail infrastructure is being expanded elsewhere in NSW, it seems particularly odd to be abandoning a section of railway infrastructure.

The argument that the railway creates some sort of barrier between the city and the harbour does not hold up in my opinion. Railway lines run through many towns, suburbs and cities, and are regarded as useful items of community asset. It is how people to get from one place to another. That applies equally to the Newcastle line.

Another factor is that public transport passengers dislike the need to change vehicles in the middle of a journey. Professor David Hensher (from the then Institute of Transport Studies at Sydney University) some years ago demonstrated that people place a monetary value on the ability to travel direct from origin to destination without the need to change transport modes. This is particularly so when the distance to be covered in the second mode is relatively short (as it would be if Newcastle passengers had to change from train to bus at Hamilton or Wickham). A possible result of forcing a change of mode is that travellers will use motor cars rather public transport so that they can make their trip without modal change. If that happens, it rather defeats the purpose of having a railway anywhere in the Newcastle region.

I believe that there are currently ample means of crossing the railway line from north to south, both for pedestrians and motor vehicles.

Please retain the railway in its current form.

Yours sincerely

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