

urbanrenewal - Newcastle rail

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Subject: Newcastle rail

I would like to support keeping the Newcastle rail line.

Why

Well here are some of the reasons that effect me.

1) I work with the aged and disabled. These voice limited people of our community tell me of their use of the rail to get into the city where they can have easy access because there are no steps. When people are "disabled" and aged life is limited usually to their homes. A trip to the beach and to a central hub is necessary for cultural and community activities and so most importantly for their physical and mental health...which we all know is a drain on the public purse! My mother catches the train here with her travelling bag that she would not be able to carry up a flight of steps. She frequently takes the train to sydney and catches the connecting bus to the Newcastle airport. The train system is used mainly by a handful of ecologically mindful people, the aged and the disadvantaged. I often worry about my 85 year old mother on a train of aggressive and disrespectful youth. This doesnot deter her because she is strong minded and positive but if...

2) accessibility and a fine train system was created for all of our community people would be encouraged onto public transport so that it would become safe and ecologically good for our environment. Australia is so behind the rest of the world. In europe trains flow into all the major and minor cities and villages. They are not ugly. People dont die or businesses do not suffer financially...no quite the opposite. The train or tramline is simple, people take notice and responsibility of respecting a train line been in the middle of their lives. People move around them and they have minimal WHS protection and are usually attractive with works of art and greenery (please see swiss trains).

And people get out, socialise and get "fed"by the community and so feed the financial community.

People use them. All people.. so they are safe.

The rail isnt going to prevent newcastle renewal... But small minded people will. The days of big shopping malls and multinational businesses are numbered. People are sick of them. Take a look at the success of small surban shopping precincts (eg tenambit) to see that people are not feed by this anymore. Encourage small business that caters for the individual. This is more attractive for the consumer and definately more interesting.

Be brave and do some thing good for the community...it may take a while to convert the shopping mall masses but give it time and your children's children will thank you.

Louisa hopkins