

urbanrenewal - Closure of Newcastele rail.

From: "Kenneth Hoy" <melbacrescent1@bigpond.com>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/15/2013 10:59 AM
Subject: Closure of Newcastele rail.

It is with considerable concern that I write protesting about the planned closure of the heavy rail into Newcastle.

I have written to the local political representatives and have been largely dismissed. The reasons are best known to those already published.

To counter this the following points need to be made:

1. The so called 600 signatures supporting the closure did not extend beyond the immediate local business area.
2. The responses from those who need to go directly to Newcastle from the upper Hunter (Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Maitland, Dungog etc.) without changing were largely ignored. This also demonstrated the ineffectiveness of parliamentary representatives beyond Newcastle.
3. The people who will be most disadvantaged include: elderly; people with mobility problems; school children attending inner Newcastle schools; people who require professional advice - law and legal firms; specialist medical consultations.
4. The issue of having to change from one form of transport to another presents many issues and problems for those wishing access to the Newcastle Foreshores and beaches, including mothers with prams as well young people seeking access to the beaches.
5. Concern has been expressed that the closure represents a significant development over the existing rail, because my understanding this corridor has never been mined and this provides the ideal site for high rise in the future. The current Lord Mayor of Newcastle is also a developer and platform for his election (for one term according to a recent press release) was to seek closure of the rail link.
6. It must also be assessed that there has been considerable small business development in the Hunter CBD.

I travel quite frequently from Newcastle to Sydney for both medical and family reasons. I travel by bus from Raymond Terrace directly to Newcastle Station where adequate kiosk and toilet facility are appreciated. When travelling to Sydney on the 8.05 am train, there are many travellers using this station both as their departure and return station.

I note that many cities elsewhere are either rebuilding their rail lines, expanding exiting rail lines, or constructing new lines.

I seek your intervention is this short-sighted and illogical project that is confronting the log-term viability and accessibility of Newcastle.

Thanking you most sincerely

K. D. Hoy
4 Melba Crescent, RAYMOND TERRACE. 2324

Ph. 02 49873632.