


HUNTER TRANSPORT for BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT


~~Chris Ray~~
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Level 31
Governor Macquarie Tower
One Farrer Place
Sydney,
NSW 2001

Dear Mr Ray

RE: Light Rail alternative for Newcastle

Further to our recent meeting and our email please see attached a full copy of our submission on light rail for Newcastle instead of cutting the rail.

Would appreciate if you could take this to Minister Hazzard.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if more information is required.

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HUNTER TRANSPORT for BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Brad Hazzard
Minister for Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney
NSW 2001

Dear Mr Hazzard

RE: Light Rail alternative for Newcastle

Thankyou for the opportunity to meet with you recently and to make a submission on the Renew Newcastle SEPP.

Background

Hunter Transport for Business Development (HTBD) is a not for profit organisation of professionals working for some years to promote the best public transport configurations for Newcastle and the Lower Hunter.

In 2009 HTBD prepared a detailed submission to the then Labor Government when that government was proposing to cut the Newcastle rail line.

HTBD welcomes the Revitalising Newcastle SEPP as an important step forward in the rejuvenation of Newcastle.

Essentially HTBD agrees with the main thrust of the SEPP with one important exception – the decision to cut the railway and build a new terminal at Wickham. If implemented this will be a severe setback for public transport and the users of public transport in Newcastle and the Hunter.

We well understand the issues involved and are confident there is a better solution to the Newcastle rail dilemma than cutting the rail, building a new terminal at Wickham and forcing everyone onto buses.

We are confident that all the objectives of the SEPP to renew Newcastle can be achieved by terminating the heavy rail vehicles at Hamilton and utilising the existing rail tracks to run light rail vehicles to Newcastle Station with a seamless cross platform transfer at an enlarged Hamilton Station.

Modern light rail helps to renew cities

The modern tram revolution is sweeping Europe and elsewhere. Across Europe trams are making a comeback as an agent of urban renewal and as the spine of modern and revitalised public transport networks. France best epitomises the modern tram revolution with impressive new systems in cities like Bordeaux, Grenoble, Lyon and Strasbourg. In France modern new tram systems present opportunities to not only refashion existing public transport networks but to refashion the city centres themselves. This is exactly what we need to do to the Newcastle CBD.