

## urbanrenewal - Newcastle revitalisation plan

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**Subject:** Newcastle revitalisation plan

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A few comments from a resident of Maitland and also Newcastle east.

- the decision by the authority to remove the railway terminus from Central Newcastle is disastrous for residents of outer Newcastle and within. This is money and business driven and not residential.

- the bus / transport system in Newcastle needs to be 're-vitalised' as it currently take nearly 1 hour to get from Newcastle east to Kotara - the current bus service should be sorted before removing a railway line!! I trust that the system used in perth has been investigated thoroughly as the Blue/Red/ Green services in central Perth are very efficient (and have a central railway system that links them.

- Why are there comments about improving the quality of new residential blocks - these usually over time look very aged and dowdy. Why is the strategy not focusing on the MANY neglected and unused CURRENT buildings and looking at purchasing these and fixing them up - I trust what they are starting to implement in Paris has also been closely looked at - ie. doing as I have stated above. How about spending the money on what is there currently and needs fixing???? The government could buy, fix up and sell. This created employment and not so many 'green house gases' they could even have a 'lets make all these dilapidated buildings into a green community'..and then re-sell when they are more appealing to people.

- Do NOT turn Newcastle into a High Rise Disaster - this is what the plan looks like you are doing.

- Newcastle has such great potential and I fear it is just going to be 'turned' into something very average. This is the opportunity to make something exceptional.

Do not do high rise, start looking at what businesses and buildings are being approved outside central Newcastle and direct them into the centre, why has the council approved places like Kotara, Charelstown and Market - Town - this has and is killing Newcastle. Has no-one observed and learnt from the Maitland Mall experience - reduced traffic - killed Maitland Mall and their re-vitalisation plan hasn't worked.

- 'The Hunter St Corridor' - it is a wide ugly street - why not make it into a Boulevard type experience with a row of trees down the middle - this has been done before with fantastic results.

- why not re-locate the Dept Health Campus from Wallsend to the City ?

While I expect that residents' opinions will go unheard and a white elephant is being created - I feel better for having my say.

From afar - as I am currently living in Europe but returning to Newcastle East at the end of the year - Australia comes across as a short sighted - un-innovative place to live - this strategy and particularly the removal of the railway line - re-affirm this for me.

Regards, Kate