



PCU042550

We feel the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy, lacks imagination. Almost all of the improvements could be made without removing the railway line, which is the best way of moving people in and out of the city.

The option of train travel into what is the second largest city in NSW is of a huge benefit to the city. No one can argue that the current system is not working and very effective. There are still large numbers of people using the line all the way into Newcastle Station daily. They are a diverse group of travellers with different needs.

The removal of such vital and effective infrastructure should not be taken lightly. Giving vehicles more access points across the line is not really a viable reason. There is going to be a whole lot more traffic congestion with all the extra buses. Pedestrians can and are willing to have access over bridges. It is much more cost effective to put in foot bridges than to rip up the line.

You will not improve public transport by replacing the trains with buses. The plans talk about promoting cycling within the city. This is going to be through cycle lanes. The worst thing about cycling in Newcastle at the moment is all the buses. Is adding more buses going to work with a bicycle lane. Why not offer free train travel as far as Wickam and cut down on the large numbers of existing buses on Hunter Street.

We applaud the plans for the heritage sites around Newcastle. However we were disappointed that the old post office isn't a part of the plans.

We appreciate the effort that everyone has put in to the Urban Renewal Plan and we believe that Newcastle is a great place to live and visit and that it could do with some improvements. We know you want to keep the people of Newcastle happy whilst improving the city and that, that is ultimately what you are trying to achieve. We are concerned however if you are listening to the community wishes. We attended the community information session on the 20th of February and the message was loud and clear that the biggest complaint with the plans is the removal of the railway line.

Kind Regards

Paul and Sarah Keating

