

D201 Azura Apartments

Moroney Ave
Newcastle NSW 2300

The Director
NSW Department of Planning

Re: Newcastle CBD Strategy

Dear Sir,

We write to express our disapproval of the proposed decision to terminate the rail service into Newcastle.

We researched and made a decision to purchase real estate in Newcastle. One of the major factors that influenced our decision was that there was a rail service within walking distance.

Our retirement plans involve living within walking distance from a railway service. As we recognise that we will one day be choosing not to add to the congestion on major roads, we made a conscious decision to locate within walking distance from a railway station.

We will have reasons to travel quite frequently to Sydney and as we age we want to be able to travel in safety by the most efficient means available to older people.

Newcastle is a major city and as such deserves the right to retain a rail service to the centre of the city.

It is a backward ill conceived step to contemplate removing a service that already exists. One can only be suspicious of the motives of those who suggest otherwise.

Plans for the University of Newcastle city campus will add approximately 3000 people into the city. Many of these people will be students. One of the most important services required by students is transport. The cheapest most efficient mode of transport is rail.

Rail is the most energy efficient, lowest polluting way to transport large numbers of people.

Not only students but the aging population and people who have made a decision to use rail and not contribute to the growing congestion on our roads should take precedence over a short sighted policy supported by politicians who may have made a pronouncement on the viability of rail services into Newcastle and may have more of an agenda to support the construction of more freeways and contribute to the ever increasing congestion on our roads.

We urge you to consider the long term benefits of rail services into a major city. The cost of changing what is already a perfectly functioning service.

A service which in the next couple of years will be utilised by an ever increasing aging population, the anticipated influx of students, lectures and associated staff.

The intention to plunder Hunter Infrastructure Funds, meant for the whole of the Hunter Region, to proceed with this ill conceived project which seems to be only supported by a minority of politicians who, may yet be revealed to benefit from the proposal, smacks of something sinister. In this age of social media it is increasingly difficult to “pull the wool over our eyes”.

May examination of this proposal not reveal sinister intent as has been revealed in the “development of the Bylong Valley”.

Yours faithfully,

Jim and Robyn King