

urbanrenewal - Newcastle rail line

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Subject: Newcastle rail line

This email is to express my great concern about the threat of closure of the Newcastle inner city rail line. This rail line provides the best means of travelling into Newcastle currently and should not be threatened. Buses are very slow and infrequent and sometimes university buses are so crowded that people are unable to board and have to wait for another bus. The university has had an inner city campus approved and just received funding to develop this campus and students are really going to need the rail line. Parking is at a premium in the city and without the rail line the new campus will cause gridlock in the city. Even before the new campus is operational there will be great hardship caused by the loss of the rail. No reasonable plans have been made to provide decent transport to replace the train and there is no need to make such plans when we have a perfectly good means of transport already. We often hear that the rail line is blocking access to the city for pedestrians from the river side of the city who wish to cross over to the mall side - yet anyone who frequents inner city Newcastle knows this is not the case. There IS no good reason to get rid of this great public asset that was put there by our sensible and hardworking forbears and to remove it would be a crime against the people. Newcastle people are sick of losing public assets for the sake of the developers and we will not tolerate this threatened closure. Elsewhere in the world the trend is to value public transport and to bring back rail lines that were previously closed. It is about time that we got smart here in Newcastle and thought about the future by making rail a more attractive option rather than by threatening its destruction.

regards

Dr Catherine Laudine