

**urbanrenewal - Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy,**

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**From:** "Frank & Juliet Maher" <fandjmaher@hunterlink.net.au>  
**To:** <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 4/16/2013 6:33 PM  
**Subject:** Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy,  
**CC:** <charlestown@parliament.nsw.gov.au>

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To Whom It may Concern,  
 Dear Sir/ Madam,

The plan to remove the railway line after Wickham station is so wrong on so many accounts. Assistance for people with prams, the elderly & disabled has recently been implemented at Cardiff station but no thought given to these same people, just a few stations further on, having to exit the train to either walk or catch a bus to their destination. This will be an imposition to able bodied people with luggage as well & the youth who travel in to Newcastle to go surfing. Surfboards & bikes which can be taken on the train with ease are not going to be accommodated on buses, not to mention luggage.

As one letter to the editor noted it will be luggage rage instead of road rage.

We don't want more buses congesting the roads. More people will drive their cars into the city causing further congestion.

With the development of the City University Campus, there will be so many people, 3000 students mooted, needing transport to that area. The Civic Station is right there to cater for them & also transport them to the main Callaghan campus.

Whenever we have a celebration in the city area, such as the Maritime Festival, Australia Day & New Years Eve, the trains are crowded & provide a wonderful service with moving large numbers of people without congesting the roads further.

The money would be so much better spent building the long spoken of rail line from Fassifern for freight which would relieve the Adamstown crossing about which there has been much talk over many years of the need for an overpass or some other means to prevent the long delays for motorists. I often wait there for long container or coal wagons. The wait for passenger services is as nothing by comparison.

There have been propositions from ex train drivers, planners etc for the train to proceed at a very slow speed from Wickham or Civic to Newcastle with crossings controlled by lights to the foreshore with accompanying beautification.

I don't believe the decline of the CBD is due to the rail line but the free parking & ease of access to the large shopping centres is one of the reasons. As is already happening, there is a need for innovation by the boutique shops & there is a marketing push in the CBD which is showing results.

Friends from overseas remark on how advantageous it is to have a rail line in to the city. To have a rail line right in to the city centre is considered a priority & something to retain in many cities of the world; definitely not something to remove.

Yours Sincerely,  
 Juliet Maher