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To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
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Subject: Revitalise Newcastle submission

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From: Phil Mahoney <philmahoney51@gmail.com>
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I am totally against closing the heavy rail corridor from Wickham to Newcastle city.

Land use always depends on Transport with regard to commuters and visitors to the City.

Plannings silly idea of having at least 80 buses a day going from Wickham to the city is just contrary to good landuse transport planning.

This will put at least 20minutes on to a journey into Newcastle Central and worse in wet weather.

This is plan formulated by developers to maximise their profits at the sacrifice of heavy rail and integrated transport journeys to the centre of Newcastle.

The north south connections are easibly able to be constructed as underpassess or overpasses at far less the cost than the \$120mill to build a new wasted interchange at Wickham or just leave the rail level crossings and add under/overpasses.

Once a new University campus of 8000 students is developed then these students will require the heavy rail trains to get to the campus otherwise the number of cars and buses to the campus will increase.

I also object to the Minister for Planning just announcing without any consultation the heavy rail corridor being closed on the 16th Dec 2012 with out any consultation, thus loading the outcome of your planning process and favouring the Developers over the community and public transport users ei the outcoem is already determined by the Government.

I have written to the Minister for Transport about this issue a number of times she keeps spruiking the Customer on Public Transport is always right, that Transport is all about the customer...so she has not written back when I point out that she is part of the Government that has announced the closure of a perfect heavy rail corridor. This is totally frustrating, then Hazzard writes back and says that he has already made the decision to close the heavy rail corridor. Travel time is critical in public transport..to go from 2hrs 5mins by rail to Newcastle from Sydney city to 2hours 25minutes train and bus will mean people will drive.

regards

Phil Mahoney

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