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Re Newcastle Urban Renewal SEPP

Dear Sir/Madam

For the last 30 years we have developed property in the Wickham and Carrington area. We have developed large commercial buildings, hotel accommodation and a restaurant in the Carrington area. We also have a large site of approx 9000sq m on the corner of Albert and Railway St and we have improved the buildings on this site from derelict to their current respectable forms.

My opinion is that the area should focus on commercial on ground floor and residential on top, both large scale and small scale, where people can work and live.

Certain streets should be set aside for restaurants, clothing shops, and hairdressing etc.

Above these premises they should accommodate housing, and attract lawyers, accountants and similar businesses.

If designed well, it could be another Beaumont St or Darby St.

Industrial developments should not be in this area.

The area definitely needs a food outlet for people to walk to, to buy their groceries, such as an IGA or an Aldi, not a large Woolworths or Coles.

My opinion is if the railway stops here, then the reality is that these changes could happen very quickly. If not, this could take a very long time.

I would like to know how many others are thinking along similar lines.

Yours sincerely

Joe and Santina Manitta