

**urbanrenewal - revitalising Newcastle**

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**Date:** 3/16/2013 10:08 PM  
**Subject:** revitalising Newcastle

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Hi,

i would like to contribute my thoughts on the proposed revitalise Newcastle Proposal, as i believe the proposal has many positive benefits for the future of Newcastle.

However the changes to the train line are disastrous and are in complete conflict with the desired outcomes of the project. Making public transport slower and less attractive for people to use, by making them change at Wickam is illogical and contra to the strategy as outlined. It is also in conflict with the practice throughout the world where people are reversing the 50's ideas of removing railways from cities and reinstalling them. In fact part of the strategy for Sydney's future is re- installing trams in the CBD, yet Newcastle can't have light rail or keep its current rail – why do we have to be the poor cousins ?

The strategy is also very divisive for the people of the Hunter. A much better option exists which completely remove this controversy. The option that has been talked about for years is to terminate the Sydney trains at Wickham and continue to run the Maitland trains through to Newcastle. This is simple, low cost and stops most of the passengers from having to change transport modes. No logical reason has ever been given why this option can't be done, lots of noise only. All the extra crossings and opening up of the connections to the foreshore can still be done, so the intent of the revitalise proposal is met and public transport is not made unattractive. This option gives us light rail now, instead of the vague promises that light rail may happen some time in the future and that developers won't build on the rail line. No Newcastle resident i have ever talked with believe these promises as Newcastle has been lied to, too many times before by politicians.

So there is an option that will be embraced by everyone in Newcastle and that doesn't need to be imposed against the wishes of most people. It addresses the negativity people have of politicians promises to Newcastle and the bad image that this issue is giving to the Liberal Party. Yet it isn't being considered, this seems illogical and wrong.

Hence please listen to the people of the Hunter and keep the Maitland trains running through to Newcastle and terminate the Sydney trains at Wickam, as it is a win-win solution to everyone.

Peter McGrath