

urbanrenewal - Submission re: Proposed urban renewal strategy for Newcastle

From: Ross Mewton <rtmewton@hotmail.com>
To: "urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au" <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 22/02/2013 5:11 PM
Subject: Submission re: Proposed urban renewal strategy for Newcastle

Manager, Centres and Urban Renewal:
Department of Planning & Infrastructure

Submission regarding the proposed urban renewal strategy for Newcastle

As an occasional user of the Newcastle rail line and as a citizen of NSW I am very concerned that the urban renewal strategy proposed by the NSW Government contains a plan to demolish the rail line between Wickham and Newcastle Railway Stations.

It is impossible to see the logic in a plan to revitalise the centre of a large city by destroying a large part of its public transport infrastructure. Forcing people to change between trains and buses at Wickham, at a transport interchange which has not yet been designed, will simply discourage people from going to the Newcastle Central Business District, and discourage people from using public transport. Wickham Station has only two platforms compared with four platforms at Newcastle Station, so Wickham will not be able to perform the function of a transport interchange without major works which would have to be funded by the people of NSW. The centre of a city as large as Newcastle cannot be re-vitalised by increasing the number of cars and reducing the number of pedestrians who have arrived by public transport. Closure of this section of railway will have a depressing effect on the Newcastle Central Business District, not a revitalising effect.

If the object of the strategy is to facilitate access to the waterfront this can be achieved much more cheaply by providing more properly designed and secure pedestrian overpasses and underpasses to cross the rail line.

I urge the NSW Government and the Newcastle City Council to abandon any proposal to demolish the railway between Wickham and Newcastle Stations.

Could you please send me an acknowledgement of this submission.

Yours faithfully
(Dr) Ross T. Mewton
69 Hastings Parade, Bondi NSW 2026