

From: "Timothy B. Miles" <Timothy.Miles@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au>
To: "urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au" <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/18/2013 11:30 am
Subject: FW: Retention of Rail Line into Newcastle

To: urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Retention of Rail Line into Newcastle

The Manager
Centres and Urban Renewal
Department Planning and Infrastructure,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to request reconsideration of the proposed termination of heavy rail at Wickham Station and hence the closure of the rail line to Newcastle Station. I believe that the destruction of infrastructure like this is an ill advised move, which will take away a valuable public service and asset and benefit only major property development.

The centre of the Hunter Valley is shifting to Maitland and Newcastle people need to be able to get to Maitland.

Conversely Maitland people need to be able to get to the beach. Terminating the rail line at Wickham seriously impairs their ability to do this conveniently.

As Newcastle's Hunter Street declines commercially there will be ample opportunity for developers to make money. The rail provides excellent transport and as it is already there any improvements will cost next to nothing.

Given the Vice -Chancellor's (University of Newcastle) recent announcement of the development of a new University of Newcastle campus in the the Newcastle and Honeysuckle precincts, it seems strange to be removing a major transport service like rail (which currently links Newcastle station with the University) and adding to traffic congestion by the use of yet more buses.

Rail is the way of the future - not the past. I fully support the retention of the rail into Newcastle Station.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Tim Miles
timothy@idl.net.au