

urbanrenewal - Newcastle Urban Renewal

From: Ian and Toni Mills <itmills.5@gmail.com>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/14/2013 5:07 PM
Subject: Newcastle Urban Renewal

Hello, I am writing to voice my concern on the removal of the Newcastle Rail Line. Why? Surely a compromise of retaining rail and rejuvenating the inner city is possible. I did not attend the recent Urban Renewal Forum but the Newcastle Herald reported the following day that upgrades would see a further 12,000 residents, 6,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs, if these figures are referring to the inner city wouldn't a streamlined and fast trip by train be a better alternative to extra busses, more traffic congestion and more car parks for the future? Also in the Newcastle Herald that day (21/2/13)

Lord Mayor Geff McCloy was said to have addressed a meeting hosted by the NSW branch of Tourism Australia telling the invited hoteliers that more accommodation is needed in the inner city, this may be the case, Newcastle could become a more popular holiday destination as it has beautiful beaches as well as the baths (that could do with improvement) and attractions such as Nobbys Headland and Fort Scratchley and what could be easier for tourists than to come directly to the city by Rail. I don't believe the commuters that come into the city from outlying suburbs and towns have been given a chance to fairly voice their opinion and if given the opportunity the majority would choose to retain the rail. I regularly come to Newcastle by Train it is a fast comfortable trip that accommodates those coming long distances with large heavy suitcases, frequent daytrippers with bodyboards and surfboards, families with prams with young children in tow, commuters that bring their pushbikes on the train who have ridden part way to work, the elderly that are a bit frail as well as the disabled will all be disadvantaged by the inconvenience of a change on to a bus. Not to mention the access to the new University. The reasoning that the rail divides Honeysuckle from the inner city is rubbish. It seems the only excuse that can be given as to why the city is not flourishing, we have walkways as well as roads to access both sides and with a bit of planning and maybe an overpass the city could be improved. If the rail goes and the town does improve, don't hail the removal a success as nothing has in the past been done to try to improve things with rail being in place as an asset working with the community. Nearby large shopping centres I believe led to the demise of the mall shops as they, up until recently offered free parking and still I think have 3hrs free, compared to the city which can be up to \$4 an hour. I have noticed the Mall shopping area has recently become busier perhaps as more cafe's and unique shops have opened giving the area a welcoming feel, this is great to see and I'm sure many of their patrons come by rail. Will the city's transport infrastructure also cope with future large crowds when attractions such as fireworks at New Year and Australia Day celebrations are held on the foreshore. Please listen to politicians in other neighbouring areas such as Lake Macquarie and Maitland who want the rail retained for their residents and not the developers on Newcastle Council who may be putting personal interests first.

Regards Toni Mills

6 Brooks Ave Cardiff NSW 2285