

urbanrenewal - Newcastle Urban Renewal

From: Ian and Toni Mills <itmills.5@gmail.com>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/18/2013 10:54 PM
Subject: Newcastle Urban Renewal

I would like to object to the cutting of the Newcastle Rail Line. It seems the decision has been made to assist Developers, Property Owners and Investors, without any consideration to the general public who as I do, use this service and believe it should stay. Rail is an asset to Newcastles transport system which needs to be kept for the general public as no bus system could offer a quicker and more convenient way to travel into the CBD. Tim Owen, Jeff McCloy and others talk of a fast bus system but how can such a system operate if a large number of people embark off a train together including the elderly, disabled, parents with prams and young children and others with large amounts of luggage all trying to get on a bus together, it will not be quick! In fact many will need to wait for the next bus or the one after as it will be full! Not to mention the teenagers from outlying areas such as Maitland who throughout school holidays and weekends come by train to surf at Newcastles Magnificent Beaches. I enquired about surfboards on nsw busses and it is up to the discession of the driver whether to allow large items on board and isles must be kept free for the safety of others so some may travel to Newcastle for a surf to be told "sorry mate no room on the bus for a board". Also will another fare be required when not within the hours the 'free' bus and 'fare free zone' runs? Most of Maitland and Lake Macquarie councillors and MPs support retaining the rail but it seems Newcastle only considers Developers, regulations have now been relaxed for them! Rail will be even more important now with the University to be built right across the road from Civic station so we will see an influx if students ,the added residents and workers all this development will bring as well as those coming in to patronise these businesses, how will the roads cope with added congestion? Not to mention added polution. It defies logic to remove a streamlined mode of transport and create chaos. At the recent Hunter Business Review Expo a Revitalise Newcastle Review featured speakers talking of placing parking areas in outer suburbs and bussing in commuters without a plan of where this may be! Also of the truncation of the rail at Wickham OR Hamilton, also no plans are available, at one stage it was also possibly being cut at Broadmeadow so this is plan which lacks strength and detail. The Museum is right beside Civic too so it is convenient by rail. Maitland is currently exeriencing a slump in shoppers in their CBD which is due to larger shopping centres opening up nearby, this is why Newcastles Hunter St Mall has lost patronage as well as high parking prices, nothing to do with rail dividing Honeysuckle from the CBD. Much could be done to enhance this beautiful city but we get told there are no funds, this is a major plan which needed backing of the rich to take a public asset. Also where are the figures coming from when we are told not many use the rail into Newcastle? Newcastle has no ticket scanning so if a weekly , multi day, or pension day ticket is purchased no destination is recorded so no figures would be accurate. Please reconsider this decision. Regards Ian Mills.
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