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Subject: Newcastle rail line

Hi

I'm disappointed that one of the key methods of revitalising the Newcastle CBD will involve removing the rail line into the CBD.

This is a particularly strange concept as it goes fundamentally against two principles.

1) How is making access to Newcastle CBD and Hunter street harder by removing a rail line that young, elderly and disadvantaged people rely going to increase the number of people going to the CBD.

In every other city in the world, increasing public transport is the method used to increase the number of people in the city.

2) Newcastle has had for many years issues with nightclubs, one of the central solutions to this issue that has worked has been the lockout of nightclubs which is aimed at (and does) reduce the number of drunk people walking around Newcastle. The reduced number of drunks on the streets directly result in less crime, antisocial behaviour and mess (vomit, urine, broken glass bottles) in the CBD of Newcastle.

As most nightclubs in Newcastle are very close to Newcastle and Civic stations, many young people use the train to get home safely. But, if the rail line is removed to Wickham, drunk people will be walking further to get to Wickham station increasing the probability of alcohol fueled violence, vomiting/urinating on the footpaths and glass bottles dumped on the streets.

2) due to the extra distance to walk, more drunks will drive instead, resulting in more lives lost on the roads as a result.

I fail to see how Newcastle can be expected to have urban renewal if the key plan of that "renewal" will result in more antisocial behaviour in Newcastle, particularly as the reduction in anti social behaviour caused by the lockout has resulted in the area around Newcastle station become more trendy (with cafes becoming more popular in the area). By removing the rail line, the NSW government will ensure increased antisocial behaviour and hence make the CBD a worse place to visit.

Let me be blunt, nobody likes to have morning a cup of coffee at a cafe, if hours earlier numerous drunks urinated vomited and threw glass bottles in the area, it is the reduction of this behaviour through smart policies that has resulted in current renewal in the CBD.

Finally, the Sydney equivalent would be allow the bangaroo development and shut Wynyard station and telling people to catch a bus to Central.

That would be rightly considered lunacy, yet it is exactly what the NSW governments is proposing for Newcastle.

Kind Regards

Steve Mohr

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