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Overall I support the strategy. For many years the Newcastle CBD has needed revitalisation. The most significant catalyst for this renewal is the removal of heavy rail traffic from Wickham to Newcastle stations.

In order to best explain the positive impact of the removal of heavy rail I would like to propose a reverse analogy.

Please imagine the negative impact on the Rocks & Bennelong Point if Circular Quay Railway Station was at ground level and not elevated. The urban planners of the 1950's realised that it would be detrimental to have this railway station at ground level and hence it was elevated. For the same reasons the CBD of Newcastle must be re-connected to Newcastle Harbour.

The so called rail debate must not be about removing transport infrastructure but must be about making Newcastle a 'connected CBD' not 'disconnected'.

There is not a successful CBD any where in the world which has a ground level heavy rail running through it.

Sent from my iPad