

From: Terry Moore <tdmoore1947@gmail.com>
To: <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>
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Subject: Revitalising Newcastle

I have just viewed the video on the concept plan to revitalise Newcastle. I fully realise how far out we are from any real plans, however this is the stage where a lot of money and time can be wasted if the right parameters are not set.

The fundamental reasons for the decay of inner city Newcastle have to be established before remedial action can take place. Clearly the demise of the inner city as a commercial hub co-incided with the development of suburban shopping centres. As well there is no major drawcard in the city as the Royal Newcastle Hospital used to be.

The only major new development with any real power to draw people into the city will be the proposed Law/ Business school if it comes to fruition.

People will certainly never return to shop in the city centre if the commercial developments cater for the same franchised shops available in every shopping centre and even in the Maitland CBD. Parking will be even more herendous than now and no-one will go there for the sake of nostalgia.

Newcastle certainly needs revitalising but is a glimpse of the harbour going to attract our mostly suburban population to a series of canyons featuring things that can be accessed more easily much nearer to where they live.

Terry Moore