

urbanrenewal - SUBMISSION RE URBAN RENEWAL STRATEGY

From: paula morrow <tomorrowtrading@hotmail.com>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/17/2013 7:40 PM
Subject: SUBMISSION RE URBAN RENEWAL STRATEGY

The Director General
 Mr Sam Haddad
 NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Mr Haddad

REQUEST TO RETAIN HEAVY RAIL ALL THE WAY TO NEWCASTLE STATION AND

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION PERIOD FOR NEWCASTLE URBAN RENEWAL STRATEGY 2012

Please note that I think any cutting of the rail line before its present termination at Newcastle Station would make any politicians involved in such a decision the laughing stock of the world. Cut public transport in the age of climate change?

I write to request an extension of the public exhibition period for the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy 2012.

The current closing date for submissions is 17 March 2013.

The Urban Renewal Strategy was announced in late December 2012, on the eve of the Christmas/New Year festive season and school holidays.

Copies of the documents were not available to the general public until mid-January.

Dates for foreshadowed community information workshops on the Strategy have not yet been publicised.

This is a major strategy for the long-term future of Newcastle, and the process of community input should be thorough. The documents indicate that vested interest stakeholders have already had significant privileged input into the development of the strategy. I am sure you are aware that the relative resources available to the general community for input already places them at a distinct disadvantage in public policy submission processes, even where vested interests are not afforded such privileged input. The community should be provided with at least a fair opportunity to comment on the many significant proposals contained in the strategy, especially in the light of the government's commitments in Goals 29 and 32 in its NSW 2021 Plan to increase public confidence in the planning system and to improve community participation in government policy making. The current deadline does not facilitate the kind of meaningful community input that the strategy itself demands, or to which the government has committed itself.

The government is also currently advocating changes to the NSW Planning system based on greater and more meaningful community participation in the strategic planning stages of the development process. The opportunities for such input into the development of the Newcastle Renewal Strategy will be seen by many as a test of the genuineness of the government's commitment to this.

Accordingly, I request that the public exhibition period for this Strategy be extended by at least one month (depending on the timing of the community information workshops, which should be held at least a month before the closing date, and which should be announced with sufficient lead time (e.g., one month) to allow members of the community to make the necessary scheduling arrangements).

Regards,
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