

urbanrenewal - Submission for Urban renewal strategy for Newcastle.

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To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/18/2013 1:02 AM
Subject: Submission for Urban renewal strategy for Newcastle.

I would like to record my strong disagreement to the proposal to close the railway line between Newcastle and Wickham.

While most cities around the world are enhancing their rail infrastructure it seems Newcastle can't wait to rip its valuable CBD connection up!

The proposal for 'Revitalising Newcastle' makes clear that the intention is to encourage people to make more use of public transport, with less dependence on car travel. But removing the railway line would only discourage commuters etc from using public transport. It makes no sense at all. It is a well known fact that urban bus travel is one of the least popular forms of public transport worldwide, so to force people off trains and onto buses to finalise their journey would act as a significant deterrent to the use of public transport to access the city.

This is a very short sighted proposal because as Newcastle does develop and grow, the roads will become more and more congested and bus travel will become less and less popular. It is then that the people of Newcastle will realise that the removal of the railway line was a huge mistake!

This proposal also goes against the principles of reducing carbon emissions, as buses are a much greater pollutant than electric and diesel trains.

I would therefore urge a rethink on the proposal to close the railway line into the centre of Newcastle.

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