

urbanrenewal - Saving the rail into Newcastle

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Date: 4/18/2013 10:42 AM
Subject: Saving the rail into Newcastle

To The Manager
 Centres and Urban Renewal
 Department Planning and Infrastructure

I believe the rail corridor into Newcastle station is a highly valuable public transport corridor that has been built up over many years with sophisticated, highly valuable, and safe public infrastructure.

The replacement of electric and diesel electric trains with more diesel buses on Newcastle's small roads is simply an absurd notion. Air quality in the lower Hunter is a significant concern (reflected in high instances of respiratory ailments such as childhood asthma, etc). Why replace a relatively clean and inexpensive mode of public transport (electric rail) with diesel buses!

I do not believe a rail/bus interchange near Wickham is a viable long term solution to replacing the rail line.

Fellow commuters and I appreciate the convenience of the rail system as it stands. And as a driver, I do not find the occasional train crossing holdups from Wickham to Newcastle a serious problem (and I drive across these crossings in Newcastle city a lot).

From discussions with many others (for example at local markets) I have found that most would prefer the rail line be saved. It is certainly true that a minority would greatly gain from the property development that would be possible once the rail line had been removed. However the interests of the majority must prevail in a genuine democracy.

For me it is all about common sense, common wealth, air quality, convenience of transport into Newcastle CBD from outside Newcastle, and protecting a highly valuable transport corridor that once dismantled, cannot practically be reinstated.

Best regards

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