

urbanrenewal - Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy

From: Margaret Ostinga <kosting@ozemail.com.au>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/19/2013 5:08 PM
Subject: Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy
CC: Margaret Ostinga <kosting@ozemail.com.au>

Dear Sir

Re : Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy.

I would like to make the following points in relation to the proposed revitalisation of the CBD

1. It is essential to maintain the existing train line into Central Newcastle for the revitalisation of the CBD.

Newcastle is blessed with an excellent rail transport system which brings a vast numbers of people into the CBD and Beaches. It is ironic that Sydney is re-introducing trams into George Street while we are considering removing vital infrastructure, that is cheap and efficient. It seems a very short sighted measure. All the great cities of the world have excellent public transport systems that take you into the centre of the city. The recent announcement that the University of Newcastle will be developing a city campus at Civic with 3000 students means extra demands will be placed on public transport. What happens when the law courts are finished? Buses are just not an effective means of transporting large numbers of people.

The rail line ought to allow more access to the river than at present. Sydney has overpasses and underpasses everywhere, it is incredible that Newcastle still has level crossings in the centre of the city. There ought to be some landscaping of the railway line where perhaps the ground is contoured to hide the rail and allow easy access to the harbour. This would be considerably cheaper than ripping out the existing rail line.

I STRONGLY recommend reversing the decision to cut the reliable rail transport into the city centre. This would provide \$60 million from the State Government's Hunter Investment and Infrastructure Fund. That money would be just enough to cover most of the public upgrades recommended by the draft strategy.

2. It is essential to retain ongoing community and local planning controls.

3. Present Height Controls should be maintained in the CBD.

Our city has the most enviable skyline with the buildings rising gently from the harbour to the Cathedral on the top of the hill. This should be preserved at all costs. Higher development should occur towards the west end of Newcastle. Paris preserved its skyline and concentrated its large buildings in one area. Newcastle has a wealth of early 20 century buildings and housing that is unique. It is an enormous asset. If more high rise is allowed this destroys the urban fabric of the city and reduces the significance of this wonderful part of our history.

Present height limits in Bolton, Church Street, Watt Street, Tyrell Street, King Street, Hunter Street, Wolfe Street, Perkins Street, Brown Street and Scott Street must be maintained.

Thank you for considering these three points which are essential for the renewal of the CBD

Yours Faithfully

Margaret Ostinga
 86 Newcomen Street
 Newcastle 2300