

Brad Hazard  
NSW Minister for Planning;  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie St.,  
Sydney  
NSW 2000.

John O. WARD  
A.O. Box 362  
Summer Hill  
NSW 2130

23 JAN 2013

13-01-13

Dear Sir:

I should like to protest at the recent decision to close the section of the rail line to Newcastle between Broadmeadow and Central Newcastle. I and my family (who live in Sydney) have always enjoyed being able to ride all the way into Newcastle and be at the main beach over the hill in a few minutes. The station is impressive because behind it is the Customs House, which looks like part of the Station. We have also often attended plays and the Art Gallery, all of which are nicely accessible from the station before Newcastle.

Throughout the world agencies and government are building infrastructure, including rail infrastructure, to make city living easier and less polluting. I would not like the NSW Liberal Government to go down in history as the government that destroyed infrastructure (as the Labor government destroyed the tramway system years ago). Please do not make this same mistake again.

If you want to favour developers who wish to put apartments along the river, let them build their apartments *over* the rail line, which would then serve as fast transport communication for the dwellers in the new apartments. To require all passengers to alight at Broadmeadow, locate a bus, then take it into the city, would add at least half an hour to the current train journey times to Newcastle Central, dissuade many from using the train and bus at all or from making the journey in the first place, and would add further pollution to the city's problems.

I urge you to re-think this 'closure' as a wrong-headed and unprogressive move, which later ages will deplore.

Yours sincerely,



John O. Ward

cc.  
Premier,  
NSW Minister for transport  
Owen Johnstone-Donnet, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Transport.