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To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/16/2013 2:56 pm
Subject: opposition to removal of Newcastle rail
Attachments: Hon Barry O'Farrell.docx

Hon Barry O'Farrell

Premier NSW and NSW Parliament

Lord Mayor Jeff McCloy and Council Members Newcastle City Council

Dear Elected Representatives

I am Newcastle GP deeply concerned about threats to our quality of life in Newcastle , and indeed our réputation in the world.

I would like to voice my objection to the proposed closure of the
Railway line fro Wickham to Newcastle

My reasons for opposing this project are as follows

! Thousands of people commute to the inner suburbs of Newcastle and to the city and beach. Development of both residential, business and university are set to increase over the next década.

How will the thousands who currently use the rail commute into town. If the reason for closing the rail is to stop traffic congestion then whoever proposed this solution must know nothing of Newcastle, as is traffic feeds into the town along major arteries only to be severely bottlenecked already at every main road into the town, you prpose adding to this trafic those who use the train ?

2 Cutting off the train at Wickham, I understand will not actually be feasible for the Sydney train which cant be accomodated on the Wickham site. Is the proposal to stop the Sydney trafic further away from town. How ca nit be that local business fails to see the potential of expanding Newcasle as a major tourist and convention centre by promoting the possibility of seamless train services from Sydney to beachfront , for example take Brighyon , England.

3 How can it be factual that a light rail will be provided for Newcastle city if the NSW Government cries poor when asked to help implement the recent GONSKI recommendations. Where will the billions come from to tear down existing infrastructure and provide light rail? Will it be privatised, if so how can we be assured that services will be affordable and run for the public interest? Will timetables and fares be at the whim of developers?

Would the billions required to rip up our infrastructure be better spent on hospitals and schools?

4 Is it true that the rail corridor is the only tract of land in Newcastle where High rise development is possible? If so, are the Newcastle aware of this motivation. In the light of recent ICAC investigations one can only wonder whether someones cronies have their greedy eyes on this possibility with absolutely no regard for the public good.

The public good, in fact seems to constantly at the bottom of the list of priorities in NSW government, regardless of who sits in the parliament.

5 I have travelled in Europe and from what I read and see it seems that most Western European democracies have public transport and greenhouse gas reduction at the top of their list of priorities. Intelligent and sophisticated town planning is the basis for healthy populations and better communities. It seems that planning in Newcastle so often is at war with this concept, as demonstrated by this proposal.