

**urbanrenewal - Manager Urban Renewal**

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**Date:** 4/18/2013 4:38 PM  
**Subject:** Manager Urban Renewal

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I'm writing to express my frustration at the situation with the rail line.

The key point I would like to make is that cities around the world are focussing on long term visions for public transport, with particular emphasis on ease of connection, and in many cases tourism.

Retaining a unique character to the city, accessibility to the beaches, restaurants and accommodation of the East End is a major reason for keeping the existing rail.

As a resident of Maitland (and previously Newcastle), I frequently catch the train to work at the university and to the city at the weekends...as the city centre/mall has become livelier thanks in no small part to renew Newcastle and the confidence of cafes and restaurants and many retailers, so more people are catching the train.

Having lived in the Eastern suburbs of Sydney, and had to deal with the mess of the Bondi Junction interchange, I can well imagine a similar situation occurring here. It has a huge impact on families and tourists wanting to visit the beaches and businesses, as well as those with pushchairs, bikes and surfboards.

It seems such a shame that we are so unable to be imaginative and brave, and picture a city of the future that is vibrant, easy to live in and visit and, above all, unique.

Like many other people, I am excited about what Newcastle could be.

We would do well to learn from examples around the world and appreciate (and make the most of) what we have. Newcastle is in a unique position to be a leader in inspiring, sustainable development.

I hope that we can create a city that we are proud to leave to our children and grandchildren and that stands as an example of creative, far-sighted urban development.

Warm regards,  
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