

urbanrenewal - Retain rail line to Newcastle

From: Marie Phillips <marimoo51@gmail.com>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/19/2013 10:04 AM
Subject: Retain rail line to Newcastle

I am writing to you due to concerns I have over the ongoing rail debate in Newcastle.
I am 61yrs of age and have travelled regularly on the train between Maitland and Newcastle for the last 20yrs.
The threat of termination of the rail line at Wickham has been ongoing for at least ten years now. Negative comments constantly in the newspaper.
Our forefathers built that line for people of the Hunter! They had foresight and planned infrastructure.
I feel the rail line and surrounds have been deliberately left 'run down'.
Ticket machine sales and ticket sales over the counter do not accurately reflect the true number of people who travel on trains because many people do not pay! There is no proper system in place to encourage people to pay!
Stations are unmanned, riffraff do what they like, and many people don't feel safe to travel.
As for cutting the line.....I have travelled on the train and had to disembark at Wickham. The assurances given don't reflect the harsh reality of having to travel on backstreets, in a bus, to get to Newcastle?!
With an aging population how will old people manage getting on/off trains and buses in all weather? What about wheelchairs and walkers.
How will mothers manage strollers with little children; young people travelling to the beach with surfboards?
People of the Upper Hunter should not be discriminated against. We should be able to get on the train and travel from point A to B in a civilised fashion.
I believe the land occupied by the trainline from Wickham along the foreshore to Newcastle is none other than a blatant money grab.
Newcastle is a beautiful city. My question is "Why isn't local and state government promoting train travel to Newcastle and the Hunter?"



Marie Phillips



Reply



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