



PCU042173

Department of Planning
Receiver
5 MAR 2013
Scanning Room

31 Fay Avenue,
New Lambton 2305
27th February, 2013.

The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure,
Hon. Brad Hazzard.

Dear Sir,

My comment is related to the closure of Newcastle rail line at Wickham.

I have read a variety of newspaper articles as well as parts of the Urban Renewal Strategy regarding the government's ideas; some seem to be contradictory.

Tim Owen's recent lengthy article in the Newcastle Herald on February 16th contained only about a dozen lines outlining actual strategies, including this message: "To facilitate this major revitalization and to connect this great city seamlessly to the harbour, rail services separating the city centre and the waterfront will be replaced by bus services from Wickham." However, an earlier statement he made in December was that the "transport part of it is only a very, very small part."

So, does he think transport is important or not?

If transport is an inconsequential part of the renewal strategy, what is the problem, why hasn't more development commenced?

The government has stated that if the rail line is cut, that parcel of land could not be sold for development, so what is it that links development to closure of the line?

The rail infrastructure at Newcastle, as well as the bus depot is functional. It is not commonsense to sacrifice this for the sake of about two kilometres of railway line.

How can there be a "seamless" connection to the waterfront if people have to leave a train to get onto a bus? What a misnomer.

We already have the ability to link with a bus at the end of the railway line in Newcastle and connecting links could be made over the existing rail corridor.

There is no good reason to close the railway line, any decision that does is lacking in commonsense. I am fed up with governments wasting my money on unnecessary and impractical projects. I didn't vote for any developers to take charge.

The government could contribute to the renewal strategy by taking action and responsibility on and for, the Newcastle Port Office. The government does own it.

(Min) Yours faithfully,
D. Hamplin