

From: Martin Schlaeeger <marlyn@idl.net.au>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/19/2012 3:05 pm
Subject: Newcastle Rail replaced by light rail a must

Dear sir/madam,

Whilst I support your plans to revitalise Hunter Street, make it more attractive, especially more bike-friendly I vigorously disagree with your plans to cut the rail line into Newcastle. I am of the opinion that an existing and recently modernised railtrack should not disappear under a layer of gravel or tarmac. If you need to cut the heavy rail replace it immediately by light rail: 1. Hunter Street would not have to cope with increased bus traffic, 2. Passengers in wheelchairs, as my daughter, elderly travellers, mothers with prams, youngsters with boards, cyclists with bikes would not have to access a bus, which in some instances is difficult, even impossible. A light rail with frequent services to Newcastle station could operate on the same platform as heavy rail, making interchange so much easier for everyone involved. If the cut goes ahead and no alternative is put into place I can foresee a dilapidated track, used for extra car parking with boarded up and vandalised railway buildings all the way to Newcastle. Smart developers will move in and argue that something needs to be done with the "eyesore", apartment blocks on the vacant land will be offered as a solution.

You don't have to look far to find out that light rail makes any city more liveable and attractive, just look at Sydney where the light rail network will be extended after having been ripped up 50 years ago. Show some foresight, listen to the people not to the developers, promote all kinds of public and sustainable transport.

A very concerned citizen
Yours sincerely,
Martin Schlaeeger