

The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning & Infrastructure,
P.O. Box 405
DEE WHY N.S.W 2099



Dear Mr Hazzard

Removal of Rail Line

As a long term Hunter Valley resident, we feel let down & betrayed by your Governments proposed plan to remove a perfectly effective & efficient transport infrastructure, being the direct rail transport to Newcastle for residents outside the inner Newcastle Area.

Today Friday 8th March I travelled on the 9am train from Victoria Street East Maitland to Newcastle. After struggling with stairs & no disability access at Victoria Street, I found the train heavily patronised. Despite claims of empty trains into the inner city of Newcastle, many families alighted at Civic Station which has a sign "Home of Newcastle Museum" I also found 40- 50 people of various abilities alighted when the train terminated at Newcastle. Some abled bodied, some with body boards, bikes, some with strollers & walking frames

We the commuters deserve to maintain our direct link to Newcastle without the inconvenience of changing modes of transport in unpredictable weather conditions or unspecified transport interchange facilities

Successful revitalisation of Newcastle needs close consultation with neighbouring areas that rely on direct transport into Newcastle not just the self- interested, ill- informed parties in Inner Newcastle who do not use the facility.

You are quoted in today's Newcastle Herald " *We know that the Lower Hunter is one of the most attractive places in NSW to live, work and play, and now we want to make it even better*" Removing the rail line is not going to make it better especially for people who live up the Valley.

Where in the world do they pull out perfectly efficient transport infrastructure to appease a minority group & in years ahead regret the decision

I strongly urge your Government to reconsider their actions and call on you to meet and consult with those that use this valuable direct transport system

Yours sincerely
Lyn & David Shafer JP's
48 Clarence Street
TENAMBIT 2323
March 8th 2013