

urbanrenewal - Newcastle Rail Closure

From: "Robert W. Smith" <dangarob@froggy.com.au>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/16/2013 9:42 PM
Subject: Newcastle Rail Closure

To whom it may concern

Cities around the world upgrade their rail systems...especially into cities....passenger trains being the most efficient and least polluting form of transport in an era of peak oil and climate change.....or have these thoughts become clichés such that we have stopped listening and believing in rational thought!

Most of my life it has been a delight to be able ,along with many friends and family to be able to get a train directly from Sydney to Newcastle... and to step out into .to the very heart of this historic town....such that in recent years I retired to the Hunter to escape the congestion of Sydney roads to enjoy the public transport where possible to access the beaches,the port where my great grandfather used to work on tug boats and the delights of inner city Newcastle.

The prospect of terminating at Wickam,the inconvenience of changing into buses in all weathers etc is just so disappointing....so irrational and so short sighted.

Don't destroy the direct rail link....upgrade this precious utility....that could be the envy of cities around the world.....upgrade,amendgo under, go over....do anything to save OUR rail link....otherwise people are not going to come into town faced with inevitable congestion that increased cars will bring.There has to be some way into town and rail is the most efficient.Access to Honeysuckle and foreshores is always going to be compromised....be it rail or carand building big complexes in this area is going to be even more confronting than the present railway.

It makes no sense to destroy a perfectly good railway line at great expense,have years of chaos and inconvenience during construction of new interchanges,lose all the potential tourists and businesses in the interim and into the future....except if you were a developer who wanted to acquire stable building ground at least expense !Developing at a profit is of course the main aim of a developer....but surely that is what government and planning is all aboutseeing beyond the immediate \$ benefits...planning for the benefit and future needs of the whole community .

Keep the railway link to very heart of Newcastle.....make it easy to get there....only then will revitalisation be possible.

Yours sincerely
 Robert W. Smith
 Gresford NSW