

The Manager of Centres
Urban Renewal
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 139
Sydney 2001



PCU043120

Re Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy
2012



2 Murray Ave
Newcastle East
1st April 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,
I wish to protest strongly about the recent Cabinet decision to close the heavy rail line into Newcastle Station and to terminate rail services at Wickham. To remove such a valuable piece of infrastructure is a very short-sighted, and from a strategic planning point of view, is politically expedient and retrograde.

It seems that the decision was made after having taken advice from both the Hunter Development Corporation and the Newcastle Business Chamber. Each of these groups consists of a small number of individuals, who have vested interests, especially with respect to real estate adjacent to or in close proximity to the rail line. There are serious conflicts

of interest involved in this matter that are not in the public interest.

The CBD can still progress with the rail line in place as also can the NURS 2012 be implemented.

Information in documents being used to argue for the line closure is full of errors, and those documents emanating from the HDC & NBC are deliberately misrepresenting the facts!

* Transport for NSW data indicates that 5,500 patrons use the section of rail line between Wickham and Newcastle daily. On a weekly basis this is a significant number of commuters. Train use is rising and would rise further in the future.

* Small business owners in Newcastle East report reduced takings when trackwork is held & buses replace trains.

* Bus services are infrequent, slow and inefficient, having the potential to create traffic management, congestion & pollution problems. Nor are bus services user friendly if one is

3.

elderly, disabled or a young mother
with children in prams.
(I use both trains & buses so can)
speak from experience

* With the development of new law
courts at Civic and the relocation
of some university faculties to
the CBD the train service will
be needed

* For at least 20 years Newcastle
City Council has encouraged shop
top housing and the proliferation
of housing developments along the
rail corridor to encourage public
transport use, so as to reduce
the need for road infrastructure
As these policies are beginning to
show results, the public transport
is being put into chaos &
uncertainty with the rail line
closure.

* The Stockton Ferry Wharf is
ideally situated in close proximity
to both Civic and Newcastle
Stations. To remove the rail line cuts
out this transport option for Stockton
residents. Perhaps more ferry routes
can be considered to improve that mode
of travel.

Yours faithfully,
(Mrs) Beverly Southern