

urbanrenewal - Exhibition of Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy - Submission

From: TOB Info <info@theownerbuilder.com.au>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
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Manager, Centres and Urban Renewal
 Department of Planning & Infrastructure
 GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001

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The Newcastle City CBD area is slowly being rejuvenated, with new investment, residential and commercial development and organic renewal. With a new university section, courthouse and commercial premises, some estimates say as many as 20,000 more people will move to or work in the city centre within 10 years.

There is already a parking shortage in the area, so where are all these people going to park? More car parks are not the answer - improving public transport from outlying areas (and maybe even park-and-ride setups) is a much better, and the obvious, choice.

Cutting the rail line at Wickham will make the commute into the city centre unbearable for most passengers. If we are already struggling to get people to use public transport, how is having to change transport going to 'encourage' them out of their cars? It is not going to.

The only 'good' outcome of the closing of the rail will be the eight (yes EIGHT) new car crossings between Hunter Street and the foreshore. So much for creating a pedestrian friendly area where the rail line used to be - all that will happen is more pedestrian crossings, more potential for people being knocked over, more congestion from the increased buses between the West End interchange and town - and more resulting pollution. We may as well just bring the steel works back to the city centre.

For the sake of the future of Newcastle, please reconsider this decision - it is not in the best interests of Newcastle or the people who live and work in the city centre.

Lynda

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 Lynda Wilson
 Publisher/Editor
 The Owner Builder
 PO Box 9000, Paterson NSW 2421 AUSTRALIA
 Phone: 0402 428 123 (10am-2pm AEST on Monday and Thursday [only](http://www.theownerbuilder.com.au))
www.theownerbuilder.com.au
www.facebook.com/TheOwnerBuilder
 Twitter - @theownerbuilder
 ABN: 24 106 576 881

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