

urbanrenewal - NEWCASTLE URBAN RENEWAL STRATEGY - Submission

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Subject: NEWCASTLE URBAN RENEWAL STRATEGY - Submission

To Whom it May Concern

Removal of the rail line from the Newcastle CBD will be a back wood step for the future development of the Hunter region & the infrastucture of NSW.

Rail lines in Europe and the US are being upgraded and very fast Train lines are being added between European capital cities. Fast Rail travel in Europe is now the preferred option over flight.

Maintaining & extending the rail network is vital to meeting the challenges of increased population and population densities. Rail provides far greater benefits over road transport.

e.g. improved land use and urban densification; lower carbon emissions; reduced congestion; fewer accidents; improving land values and removal of barriers to social inclusion and much lower costs in shifting large numbers of passengers or freight.

Australia is the most intensive user of road freight in the world and has the least energy efficient road passenger transport among members of the International Energy Association. International experience suggests that increased use of rail will be vital to meeting transport – and emissions challenges - as Australia's population and urban population densities, increase.

Rail is the future of public transport, travel & goods transport in Australia - to consider cutting lines into a major city defies logic. The large majority of citizens in the Hunter want to maintain the rail line into the Newcastle CBD please do not let small vested interests destroy the growth and future of the Hunter.

Sincerely

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