

Susan Kiprovich

From: Wayne Webber <wayne@nswtf.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 December 2012 10:08 AM
To: Public Hazzard's Office Email
Subject: Newcastle rail services

Dear Mr Hazzard,

I call on you to reverse the decision to cut the rail line into NSW's second city at Wickham. This decision flies in the face of the efforts of other cities and governments including the NSW Government to build more railways to alleviate traffic congestion as well as providing high density dwellings and a better urban environment.

The railway has existed as a constant in Newcastle for almost 150 years. The fortunes of the CBD have clearly been influenced by the large retail developments at Charlestown and other suburbs, not by the presence of the railway.

As a born and bred Novocastrian I believe that the majority of those living in Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Hunter Valley townships such as Maitland and the Central Coast do not want to lose rail access to the Newcastle CBD.

The extra crossings of the rail corridor can be installed while keeping the rail line open. It's only a few property developers and their lobbyists, a noisy minority with vested interests who want the rail services removed. This decision, if left unchanged will put corporate greed ahead of the "common good", that is, community need.

At a time when the NSW Government is commendably building the North West Rail Link and re installing some of Sydney's former tram network, don't take away existing infrastructure in Newcastle. The expenditure of \$120 million to remove our train services to Newcastle is a folly which will only benefit a few wealthy developers and hinder the redevelopment of East Newcastle.

The NSW Government is cutting billions of dollars from the health and education budgets, core business for a State Government. The \$120 million is clearly need elsewhere, not to destroy existing infrastructure.

Again, I ask that you reverse this regrettable decision.

Yours faithfully,

Wayne Webber

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