

urbanrenewal - FW: Proposal to Close Newcastle Rail Line

From: <ianannieyoung@bigpond.com>
To: <urbanrenewal@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 4/14/2013 6:55 PM
Subject: FW: Proposal to Close Newcastle Rail Line

The Manager
Centres and Urban Renewal
Department Planning and Infrastructure
GPO BOX 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposal to Close Newcastle Rail Line

Dungog is a small rural town approximately 65 Km from Newcastle with a population of around 2,800 people and a surrounding Shire total of around 8,500.

We have a mixed population of retirees, pensioners, farmers, working people and around 1,500 school students. This number includes 680 High School Students, Many of whom have aspirations to attend University. A number of retirees have moved here because we have a rail line to Newcastle.

Many of us do not use the rail line at present because rail timetables are poorly planned, with an inadequate service and there is not a lot to go to Newcastle for in it's present state. During School Holidays, the rail cars are packed with kids traveling in to Newcastle to visit some of the best beaches on the coast.

For some years now we have lived with the promise of a Newcastle renewal plan. New Law Courts have been started and The Newcastle University is forming plans to include a campus in the centre of the city. These plans alone will justify further development with more businesses opening.

We believe that the Newcastle centric developers are being short sighted in their insistence that the rail line be closed and it would be a tragedy at this stage for the line to be closed.

The Hunter Valley, with Newcastle as it's main city has a population of well over a half a million people and growing. A rail service from Maitland and Scone also runs to Newcastle. The Valley needs this rail line.

Please, at this stage, re consider the many reasons to keep the rail line open. With the planned redevelopments of Newcastle, it is more necessary than ever to have a direct line to the city. Imagine Sydney without a rail line!

In conclusion, we believe that a bridge over the line at Civic would solve the problems of traffic congestion and be a far cheaper option than building an Interchange.

Thank You for your consideration.

Yours Faithfully,

Ian D. Young
8 Cooreei Place,
Dungog, NSW 2420