

## urbanrenewal - Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy

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**Subject:** Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy

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To The Manager, Centres & Renewal

I support the renewal of Newcastle's centre. I believe the strategy (NURS) contains many fine concepts.

I do not agree with truncating the rail line at West Wickham.

I believe there are many options available that reconcile the benefits of retaining a single-mode, rail-based transport route into the heart of Newcastle's CBD with renewing the city centre.

It is despicable that no attempt seems to be made to rationally discuss such options and then outline why they are not satisfactory. The public is simply told "you can have renewal OR rail." That argument is false, and leads many of us to wonder if there might be some undeclared plan to sell the rail corridor land to developers.

One option that reconciles rail and renewal is to elevate the rail line (and Wickham station) over Stewart Ave, removing a traffic bottleneck and providing several hundred metres of pedestrian access under the elevated line. It would even be tolerable to also truncate the rail line at the western end of the Hunter St Mall, opening up several hundred more metres for pedestrian access.

Another option is to build a heavy rail terminus not at Wickham, but at Woodville/Hamilton junction, using train/trams the run as trains from the junction to Sydney, Dungog or Scone and trams from the junction to Newcastle - improving traffic flows at Stewart Ave and other places such as Beaumont St. This would also release dedicated heavy rail vehicles for use elsewhere in the NSW system.

Keep and improve the rail line into Newcastle.

Regards,  
Warwick Cadenhead  
East Maitland resident