

HAND DELIVERED 30/7/2013

PO Box 2192

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29<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.



My key submission is DON'T

Don't sell our Port. Why should Newcastle fill up the empty coffers of the State Government? We've given more than our share! Giving us half the money for the sale is a disgrace. Selling it is a bigger disgrace; at a bargain basement price. Losing control of the port is dangerous and it is a case of "Selling off the Farm".

Don't cut our rail! Our trains into Newcastle can all be slowed. I already catch a "light" rail train from my home town, Scone, into Newcastle. And I don't pay for my ticket from Scone to Newcastle. Why? Because there is no facility to buy a ticket from Scone. So the Government is wrong or deliberately telling porkies when they say we don't use the city rail system to and from Scone.

This tale about moving the rail about 50 metres to Hunter Street is ridiculous! The street is already at traffic jam state every peak hour.

Cutting the rail will cost millions. Planning light rail will take millions. Putting light rail in will cost hundreds of millions. I'm talking about dollars. I'm not talking about brains behind this move. They appear to be non-existent. Or are there ulterior motives?

I hear about a "dingo" fence. I hear that there is no access to the Foreshore along the rail line. What rubbish! Los Angeles allows level crossings of its lines because the trains travel as slowly as a tram. We can do that. We could even put in an overhead access costing a tiny amount compared to this light rail idea. Just use the rail lines that are there. The Gold Coast put its rail back in recently. So has a main city in New Zealand. Hastings have beautified the line with water fountains which could happen in Newcastle.

We need money for our Town Hall. We need money for our old Post Office. We need money for our Art Gallery. Use money where it is needed!

Taking out our rail is the third strike out. We suffered an earthquake. Our regional hospital was moved from the foreshore so it could be sold off. Now our biggest disaster is about to happen: stopping our public transport system into the city. Newcastle will go backwards again. It is recovering, despite foolish talk from the Newcastle Business Chamber and other Government bodies that seem to have the ear of the State Government, exclusively. When do average people get listened to?

If this light rail plan into Hunter Street is adopted, I despair for my Democracy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeane Gravalin'.

Jeane Gravalin

PS The overhead pass on the level crossing at Stewarts Avenue was promised in 1965. When are we going to get it?