

To whom it may concern :-

Please find my personal submission re the above draft plan. My comments will be in point form pertaining to appropriate pages.

Prior to my comments being written I need to say that the plan appears to me to be fairly one sided " Grow Australia's next major city " or " Hunter City ".

Let's face it ! Only for the benefits derived from the Upper Hunter areas, Sydney would not be able to finance all the new projects they have in the pipeline .

Page 3. I note that the proposed Hunter City will comprise of Newcastle, Maitland and Lochinvar.

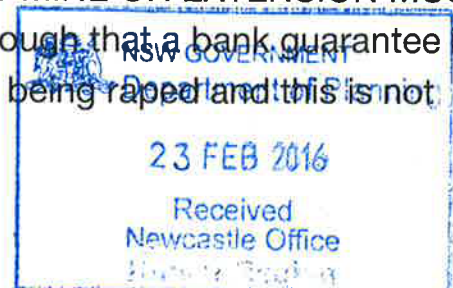
Page 17. Re the proposed new hospital in Metford near Maitland where I see accessibility is a big problem except for those who live in close proximity . The site is out of the way and I believe nil thought was given to the siting. I also believe that the most suitable site would have been somewhere near the expressway, around Greta for example. The latter would be more accessible to those who reside in the Upper Hunter.

Page 19. Renewables. I believe that Australia must diversify as the world grapples with global warming which is a fact of life. It is also a fact that Saudi Arabia is making amazing investments in renewable energy. Solar energy needs to be invested in to assist the government to save all the money it spends on health in the Upper hunter, Namely, the pm2.5 is costed at \$36.000 a tonne in health damage in Singleton alone.

Page 39. Action 2.4.1 post coal extraction lands could be used productively. I personally am aware of Rixes Creek and Glencore - Mt. Owen / Glendell trials re cattle being raised on rehabilitated land versus unrehabilitated land. Great outcomes have been acknowledged. But let's face it, the rehab land has had much in the way of nutrients applied to assist this great success of the cattle weighing heavier and their blood testing results showing how healthy they are.

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I also believe that a CONDITION OF CONSENT TO A NEW MINE OR EXTENSION MUST CONTAIN PLANS FOR THE FINAL VOID. It is not good enough that a bank guarantee is held to cover the rehabilitation of a void. Our landscape is being raped and this is not good enough to those of us who care.



Page 41. Our waterways have been affected recently and this is not acceptable as water is the source of life and without healthy water, life ceases.

Page 67. 4.2.1 Housing for the aged and or retired residents. In the Upper Hunter, especially Singleton, there is a great need for retirement and aged and disabled housing. We have married couples departing from Singleton LGA when they wish to downsize due to the fact that there is no independent living facility here. The residents wish to live, love and play here in their town where they have family. Once they move away, a partner dies, they are even more alone and thus quite often slip into a depressive state, once again costing the state government dollars.

Transport- the train transport for residents needs to be thoroughly overhauled as we in the Upper Hunter are so disadvantaged to say the least. It appears that the coal industry takes priority over human transportation. The latter must not be so. Once again our Upper Hunter residents must do without. We badly require a better rail service into the city of Newcastle.

We have young people who find it very difficult to access Educational facilities to further themselves to enable them to procure a career or work. If the parent is not able to purchase a vehicle for them to drive then that puts paid to their dreams, country youth need to be considered. I personally know of young people trying to access Glendale TAFE for education, this meant the parent needed to drive the young person to Glendale, install him in the motel at Wallsend, pay for three night accommodation and then return to drive him back to the Upper Hunter. The latter is repeated each week to enable the lad to gain an apprenticeship and be employed here locally at the same time.

Thanking you.

(mother, grandmother, retired nurse of 20 yrs full time work with Hunter Health, volunteer with many charities, active on twelve committees)