

The Secretariat  
Upper House Committees  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your letter regarding the Select Committee Inquiry on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the Broader Hunter Region.

Please find attached answers to questions for the Transport Cluster.

I trust the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Dave Stewart**  
**Secretary**

Encl.

- 3 DEC 2014

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PLANNING PROCESS IN NEWCASTLE  
AND THE BROADER HUNTER REGION**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Question		Response
<b>Transport for NSW – Questions</b>		
1	When is construction on the light rail expected to be complete?	A completion date will be determined when a contract is awarded for the construction of the light rail and a program for delivery is developed with the contractor.
2	What is the budget for the light rail?	\$460 million has been allocated to the Newcastle Urban Renewal and Transport Program.
3	Has the Department investigated other options for movement of passengers and vehicles other than truncating the rail line at Wickham? If so, could they provide the documents outlining these investigations?	<p>The truncation of the Newcastle rail line is central to the revitalisation of Newcastle city centre.</p> <p>The removal of the heavy rail line from the city centre will allow the city to be reunited with the waterfront.</p> <p>There have been countless studies into the future of the rail corridor over the last decade.</p>
4	When will construction begin on the light rail and what are the constraints on beginning construction of light rail line on the Hunter Road section before the line is truncated?	<p>Light rail construction is expected to commence in late 2015 following community feedback and planning approval.</p> <p>Truncation of the Newcastle rail line was announced in December 2012. Delivery of Newcastle light rail was announced in June 2013.</p> <p>The NSW Government is getting on with the job of truncating the rail line, reuniting the city centre with the foreshore, and providing certainty for the people of Newcastle.</p>
5	Can the Department provide figures on current use of the stations along the Newcastle line and projected use to these stations after truncation?	<p>Average daily entries and exits at Newcastle city train stations in 2013 were as follows:</p> <p>Newcastle: 2,300 Civic: 1,780 Wickham: 1,160</p> <p><i>(Source: Bureau of Transport Statistics, <a href="http://www.bts.nsw.gov.au/Statistics/Train/default.aspx">http://www.bts.nsw.gov.au/Statistics/Train/default.aspx</a>)</i></p> <p>Following the truncation of the rail line, the existing Wickham, Civic and Newcastle Stations will be closed as operating train stations.</p> <p>A new transport interchange will be constructed at Wickham, west of Stewart Avenue, and will cater to the</p>

		<p>projected future growth of Newcastle.</p> <p>Light rail will travel from the new transport interchange through the city centre and connect to the foreshore.</p> <p>Public transport use in Newcastle is anticipated to grow as a result of the urban renewal of the city centre.</p>
6	Can the Department provide any data it has to support the contention that removing the train line will result in greater pedestrian crossings from the CBD to the waterfront in the west end of Newcastle?	Truncation of the rail line will allow the delivery of new pedestrian crossings across the existing rail corridor, reconnecting the city centre and the foreshore.
7	Can the Department provide an itemised account of what is included in the NSW Government's figure for the cost of \$220,000 per week if the closure of the train line is delayed?	<p>The minimum of \$220,000 per week includes staffing costs, renting of facilities, machinery and equipment, rescheduling rail possessions, customer information materials and project team costs.</p> <p>From 26 December, over a two-week rail closedown, around 150 workers will be on site to carry out work to prepare for trains to terminate at Hamilton Station. Work will also begin on the new Wickham transport interchange.</p>
8	Could the Department provide details of when local businesses in Wickham were informed of the closure of Railway Street, how they were informed and which businesses received this information?	<p>The closure of Railway Street was included in a fact sheet released on the Transport for NSW website in December 2013:  <a href="http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/light-rail-transport-newcastle-city-surf">http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/light-rail-transport-newcastle-city-surf</a>.</p> <p>Local businesses were door knocked on 30 July 2014 and a letter was hand delivered to over 60 businesses in and around Railway Street offering a briefing. A newsletter summarising the project was also hand delivered to businesses and residents in the project area on that day.</p> <p>The project has since met with a number of businesses in the area to discuss the project, including the Railway Street closure.</p>
<b>Roads and Maritime Services – Questions</b>		
1	Can the Department provide any traffic studies that show the impact of light rail in Hunter Street on traffic movement?	<p>Traffic modelling is underway as part of the detailed planning for the Newcastle light rail.</p> <p>More information will be made publicly available as part of the environmental approval process for the light rail in 2015.</p>
2	Has the Department investigated other options for	As per Question 3 above.

	<p>movement of passengers and vehicles other than truncating the rail line at Wickham? If so, could they provide the documents outlining these investigations?</p>	
3	<p>Could the Department provide details of when local businesses in Wickham were informed of the closure of Railway Street, how they were informed and which businesses received this information?</p>	<p>As per Question 8 above.</p>
4	<p>Can the Department provide documentation regarding the decision to remove land being sold by the Department of Main Roads and Services adjoining the Fernleigh Track and any documentation regarding the decision to proceed with the sale of 142-146 Dudley Street Whitebridge?</p>	<p>Roads and Maritime commenced processes for the sale of the properties in accordance with Government Total Asset Management guidelines which include specific instructions to divest surplus land via a public and transparent process, in a timely manner and at market value in accordance with Treasurer's Direction 469.01.</p>