

**Submission
No 182**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING PROCESS IN NEWCASTLE
AND THE BROADER HUNTER REGION**

Name: Mr Francis McQuade

Date received: 23/10/2014

The intention to close down and tear up the Wickham to Newcastle railway line, is one of the greatest pieces of vandalism I will have ever witnessed.

There can be no justification other than the greed of vested interests getting their grubby hands on a fine piece of corridor, which has served the City of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley for over 170 years.

Surely the events as disgraceful as they are, should see ICAC investigating the theft of this land. Surely there is enough evidence of the terrible intention to steal this land from the local Novocastrians and give it to persons involved with the Newcastle City Council in an action resulting in the most heinous theft I have ever seen in this state.

The railway should be left intact and in fact expanded to take in additional suburbs in the basin, including the rebuilding of the Toronto railway line from Fassifern, and the rebuilding also of the Belmont railway.

Combined with the disgraceful handing over of the Epping-Chatswood publicly funded railway to greedy developers, at the cost ultimately to the taxpayers of NSW, I doubt that I have ever seen such acts of sheer wickedness in 65 years of life.

I attach a letter of rejection by ICAC of my assertions of questionable activities by both NSW Government and Newcastle City Council, which I regret that the ICAC Commissioner rejected.

If this closure goes through, the Liberal Party's name will be mud for generation or more, not only in the Hunter Valley, which they plan to decimate, but around NSW for a generation.

I do remind the Government that a full election will be held in March next year, and their actions I hope will be subjected to the closest examination of their ethics and moral fibre.