

**Submission  
No 51**

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

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**Date received:** 13/10/2014

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Newcastle has suffered much from being the source of enormous revenue for this state and has again and again failed to receive a fair share of the benefits. Recent ICAC inquiries have clearly demonstrated corrupt pressure from developers upon government office holders at local and state level. Our lord mayor and state member of parliament have resigned because of this. These two public officials were strongly in favour of cutting the rail line against the wishes of the people of Newcastle. To have the state government wish to push ahead with these plans despite this situation is to beg the question of how much pressure developers might still be having in Macquarie street and how big the paper bags are down there. We need to call a halt to this unseemly business and get back to clear and above board decision making in the interests of the majority of the people not in the interests of developers. Justice requires that these plans be put on hold until a genuine community consultation process is undergone.