

**Submission
No 152**

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

Name: Ms Maureen Van Helden

Date received: 23/10/2014

I own and reside in Newcastle city. I oppose the railway closure. I use it as do many others. Pensioners, disadvantaged, residents, children, tourists, university students also new campus being built, etc come into the city from outer areas and to be able to travel in one run into the city was a great plan that still is just that! It is very convenient and important for the less abled to not have to change. The history of the line and the area of the rail line has allowed the city to keep a balance. High rise as a substitute would congest, change important air flow & environmental factors and be another materialistic choice rather than a vision and plan to innovate Newcastle in other ways. The monies toward the closure and new tram line now congesting streets is impractical and I oppose it going to this project.

I also oppose the building on 62 Dawson st (I think this is the right no you will know the address no from yr file) where a huge paperbark tree will be cut down for this building to take place. This tree is unbelievably big, beautiful, used by many birds and loved by myself and all who know and notice it. It is a living resident on Dawson St and has the right to remain in place undisturbed. It provides much coolness, shade, oxygen and is a very important part of our ecosystem. The children and residents who live here are very aware of its significance. Please read this submission and know I am honoured to live with such trees and utilise this rail system and feel I have a voice in writing this. Thanku