

**Submission  
No 361**

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

**Name:** Mr Colin Keith

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12<sup>th</sup>.10.14

Rev. F. Mile MLC

Dear Sir

As an 83 year resident of Newcastle I can remember the reason for removing the trams from Newcastle was given as congestion of traffic and of course there were much less cars in those days. To put light rail in Hunter St these days would be recreating a similar although much much worse situation. Between 30 and 40 years ago I worked for a national bearing Co. on the corner of Stewart Av. and Hunter St and we and many others both domestic and commercial on both sides of the rail line had to vacate our premises as the government widened the road as the 1st step in building a bridge over the line. When the line to Newcastle was electrified the bridge was forgotten.

Many motorists complain about delays at the rail crossings but despite many requests the government refuse to reopen crossings that were closed some years ago.

Both my wife and I are very active in the community through social clubs and charities and we are yet to meet anyone who believes that there will ever be light rail in Newcastle. The people are aware that developers can't wait to get their hands on the rail corridor as it is the only land in the CBD not undermined and could carry monster high-rise.

Newcastle is unique in Australia and possibly the world in having a rail line all-most to our beaches and is used by many young people and families from the upper Hunter seeking a day at the beach.

The line also is widely used when our growing number of sporting and cultural events take place as well as holiday times. If the line is cut the number of buses will increase great greatly adding their diesel fumes to our air pollution which is creating long problems for many citizens now, which places stress on our hospitals. The development lobby uses the phrase "open the CBD to the foreshore," the residents who are aware of the area between Wickham Station and Civic Station, "say open the CBD to the back of high rise buildings."

In closing, the University Plan to have a campus of 5000 students with no parking so if Civic Station is closed how do the students get to the West End? I think the cutting of the rail line will be a disaster for Newcastle, which will take 50 years to recover if ever.

Thank you for taking the time to read this

Colin Keith