

Submission
No 153

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 23/10/2014

Partially Confidential

Concerning the proposed termination of the railway line:

I am not against the introduction of light rail, but:

1. the light rail will not fit in the eastern end of Hunter Street, even the Council planners admit this;
2. there should be overall planning: a light rail should not stop at Newcastle but run out to the beaches, down Parkway (where there are 3 schools) and back via Marketown, a shopping area. It should be a loop rather than a 2 station line.
3. how short-sighted to be cutting public transport when so much development is proposed for inner Newcastle. Many people, students, people attending court, older residents use public transport. Some developments have not provided parking for private cars.

Concerning Urban Renewal:

It appears the proposed high rise towers are driven by developers. GPT bought out much of Hunter St and then demanded the railway line be cut before any development took place.

Despite the drawings of the proposed towers showing the Cathedral, they will block some sight lines to the Cathedral. They are out of character with current buildings in the area and will, I believe, detract from the charm of inner Newcastle. Many tourists are delighted by the current architectural charm of much of Newcastle. (There are some higher buildings by the beach but we do not want to become another Gold Coast.)

Again, I am not anti-development, but it should respect citizens' wishes and the character of the inner city.

I live in the inner city but am not personally affected by the proposed towers but I work in the Cathedral shop where tourists frequently tell me they are impressed by the city.