

**Submission
No 154**

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

Name: Professor Dirk van Helden

Date received: 23/10/2014

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The Responsible Minister
NSW State Parliament
RE: RAILWAY TO NEWCASTLE STATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with great concern that I write to you for your support in preventing the destruction of the immediate railway line into Newcastle train station. The push to do this is coming from a group of developers and like-minded people with no vision as:

- 1) Newcastle CBD is soon to have a University campus where good rail connection will be essential;
- 2) Newcastle CBD has marked ongoing high rise development that will bring many more people into the city

This is a very short-sighted plan. The argument is that the city needs direct access to the harbour. In fact removing the railway will lead to buildings replacing this infrastructure, which will themselves limit access to the harbour. Also if there is such a desire to have these buildings then strategies such as building over parts of the railway line would work and should at least in part satisfy the developers.

This is a major decision that will have most significant ramifications not just now but long into the future. We are very grateful for your support in preventing this occurring.

Yours sincerely
Dirk van Helden