

**Submission  
No 36**

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

**Name:** Mr Eric Tierney

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There are at least one thousand backpackers moving between Sydney and Brisbane every day of the year and a similar number coming the other way. Somehow Newcastle has managed to avoid them. The East End needs to be developed as a backpacker mecca and the train ride on the southern section, not the motorway, is surely the best way of ensuring they arrive close to the beach.

Many of the old buildings could be adapted as backpacker hostels. There needs to be a train to Mudgee. Buses could be run from Newcastle station to points further north and hopefully this would lead to the running of a tourist train to the North Coast.

The developers behind Lift the Tracks have been blind to all this - first wanting a Westfield and years later shifting to a mass of units. It is time to stop listening to them.