

**Submission
No 25**

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

Name: Mr Christopher Dodds

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Submission to Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter Region

Inquiry on the planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region

Submitted by Mr. Chris Dodds

To:

The Director

Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the Broader Hunter Region

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to the Inquiry to consider the importance of the intercity rail line into Newcastle's central business district.

As a frequent patron of the rail line to visit my daughter and grandson, the prospect of having to use an interchange at Wickham will hugely inconvenience my travel to and from Newcastle.

It seems to me that out of all the voices listened to that those of the patrons of the public transport system connecting Sydney to Newcastle have been listened to the least. Given however that the passenger service between the two cities it is outrageous that infrastructure in place would be demolished. This decision is short sighted and goes against both common sense and world wide urban planning design principles.

Cutting the rail line would be a mistake for numerous reasons as no doubt will be pointed out to the inquiry. From my point of view though, not being able travel seamlessly into the city will be hugely inconveniencing. Moreover, given no assurances have been made for any attempt at a suitable replacement transport it is frustrating that the users of public transport are not being accounted for.

The inquiry should consider in part the fair prioritization of principles of accessible public transport and the views of those people who currently use the Newcastle intercity rail line.

Finally it is also critical for the Inquiry to examine who will profit from the decision to remove the rail line. Who will develop the land and who influenced the Government to arrive at the decision to close the line. This examination should go back to when the member for Newcastle Bryce Gaurdy

was replaced by the ALP head office and should then include who donated to the election campaign which saw a Liberal member replace the ALP member in the last election.

With regards,
Chris Dodds