

**Submission
No 9**

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

Name: Mr Peter Hood

Date received: 26/09/2014

This is a response I sent to the Minister from a reply I had to an earlier email I had sent in December 2013. I didn't get a response to this email. I think the decision to terminate the line at either Wickham or Broadmeadows is Outrageous and fails the Public Interest test. Why cancel a fully functional and greatly used rail line?

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your response to my email in December 2013 concerning the NSW Government's decision to rip up a very good rail service. Unfortunately your somewhat "prompt" response to my email does not address the issue. As why would a government waste money on a new transport option when there is already a good and reliable transport system in place and right into Newcastle and walking distance to the beach?

I attended one of your "so called Community Consultations" last Saturday and what a farce and I have a few questions about this process? Firstly how is all the information going to be collated and responses discussed with the local community? Secondly how will such information and other correspondence, emails etc be discussed and accessed by the local community

There are obvious different views on the transport arrangements for the city of Newcastle and I would have thought as such the "Community Consultations" would have included discussion on all the options including maintaining the existing rail line and terminating at the current terminus? Further some debate at these Consultations and arguments for and against and not a glossary of banners and photos on what the Government think is best for the city and community that lived there. I didn't noticed any Minister or Parliamentary member present.

So lets have REAL CONSULTATION AND NOT A CLAYTONS ONE, so that the Community can best decide on Newcastle's future rail needs.

Further as a regular visitor to Newcastle, one thing I enjoy about the city is being able to get ONE train from Sydney Central to Newcastle and then a pleasue walk to the beaches and surrounds. I would think twice about visits if I have to make changes in transport!

Yours Faithfully

Peter Hood

PS; If I locate earlier emails will fwd them on.