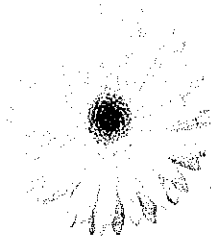


**Submission
No 305**

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

Organisation: Union of Australian Women Newcastle NSW Branch

Date received: 29/10/2014



Union of Australian Women

Newcastle - NSW Branch (est 1950)

Secretary: Lynda Forbes

25th October 2014

Reverend Fred Nile ED, Lth, MLC, Chair,
Parliamentary Inquiry in Planning Decisions affecting Newcastle and Hunter Regions as a result of
ICAC Inquiry in Newcastle,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000

Dear Reverend Nile

RE: Parliamentary Inquiry into controversial planning decisions taken by NSW State Government in light of the recent ICAC Inquiry findings in Newcastle NSW.

For many years the Union of Australian Women Newcastle-NSW Branch has been involved in the campaign to save the railway line through to Newcastle Station and has protested against many local issues relating to planning, infrastructure and changing the height of buildings etc.

In recent times there have been many rallies, meetings and protests against the decision made by the current NSW State Government to sever the railway line at Wickham, introduce a transport hub in that vicinity and install "light rail" from Wickham to the Pacific Park at the East End of Newcastle. These protests also included the removal of height restrictions in the Newcastle CBD area; building on the rail corridor after the heavy rail line has been removed; the sale of State Government Land in Newcastle and our support on the call to declare an "Old Town" from the east of Darby Street which will retain all heritage building restrictions, height restrictions, development restrictions, and a "New Town" west of Darby which could incorporate an easing of the height restrictions in some parts of the "New Town" which will not impinge on free access to the river with no buildings on the rail corridor should the heavy rail line be lifted.

In the midst of this, the ICAC Inquiry held in Newcastle uncovered some unethical funding for members of Liberal Party who won seats in the area, resulting in their resignation. An outcome of this, as you are very much aware, is the Parliamentary Inquiry into Newcastle and Hunter controversial planning decisions taken by NSW State Government which affect Newcastle and the Hunter regions.

The Union of Australian Women Newcastle-NSW Branch at our September 2014 meeting, determined to write to you advising that we strongly protest against any NSW Government removing the heavy rail line between Wickham and Newcastle Stations. We strongly protest against high rise development in the East end of Newcastle and along the Rail Corridor or adjacent to the rail corridor and support the moratorium on the sale of State Government owned land until after the March 2015 State Election. Further, should the Parliamentary Inquiry find any of the decisions taken by the NSW State Government since the commencement of their term of office until the findings of the ICAC Inquiry in Newcastle prove to be unsound, we support the rescinding of these decisions and that they be put before the new NSW State Government which will be elected in March 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Lynda Forbes,
Secretary,
Union of Australian Women Newcastle-NSW Branch

President: Janet Mundie

Email: uaw-newcastle@hotmail.com.au