

**Submission  
No 64**

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

**Name:** Mr Sid Gray

**Date received:** 16/10/2014

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Sid Gray

14th October 2014.

Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC  
Committee Chairman

With reference to point (e) of the terms of reference, I would dearly like your Select Committee to carefully consider some of the points I have gleaned from the many rallies in defence of "Saving the Rail" - they are:

1. The infrastructure is already in place and simply needs to be maintained (thereby saving 100's of millions of dollars ~~the~~ needed if a new rail system is built).
2. There are more people than ever before now living in the East End of Newcastle, with the advent of the many apartment complexes.
3. This fact, together with the increase in activity from the new University Campus and the new law courts will increase traffic flow and create parking problems - all of which could be alleviated by encouraging the populace to use the rail system - even with reduced fares, the government would be better off for not having to erect multiple car parks at huge expense.
4. Some of the money which will be provided from the sale of the Port (Hunter) facilities and huge (albeit, reduced) returns from the export of coal, could be spent on

fine-tuning an integrated transport system, perhaps even extending the rail from the city centre to such areas as Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie.

5. The Newcastle Railway Station serves not only Newcastle city, but is a vital ~~for~~ front of the greater Hunter Region, servicing people from up the valley and from beyond.

6. Slow, light rail could use the existing rail line and a lot of the so-called "barrier" between the city and the harbour (namely the fences) could be done away with.

There is certainly nothing to be gained in removing the "barrier" by developing multi-storey buildings along the rail corridor!

A blind person could see the real motive behind the developers' wishes to remove the rail!

Yours sincerely,

A.C. Gray. (Newcastle East resident.)