

**Submission
No 167**

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

Name: Ms Sarah Vautier

Date received: 23/10/2014

To the Select Committee on the planning process in the Newcastle and broader Hunter region.

I am asking that the decision to truncate the line between Wickham and Newcastle on the 26th of December be delayed, so as a proper inquiry can be made into the planning process.

Over the last two years I have sent several emails to various members of parliament, asking to discuss the plans to remove the line. I emailed Pru Goward, Gladys Berejiklian, Tim Owen, Mike Baird and Barry O'Farrell. The only responses I received were to say I needed to contact someone else, as it was not a transport issue. Some didn't reply at all.

I believe that as a member of the community I have a right to contact my local member for parliament as well as the minister for transport in regards to the plans to truncate the line. I wanted to know why the public were not consulted. I have been to several consultation evenings where the plans involving the removal were open to the public. The problem was that at every one of these, they said 'you were not allowed to discuss the removal of the line'. There were always large numbers of people wanting to discuss the issue and it was not possible.

I am very disappointed with the recent findings during the ICAC investigations. I feel that the people of Newcastle have been let down, they have been lied to and now the government wants to remove the most reliable and efficient mode of transport into the city. Is it not reasonable that the public be consulted on this major issue?

It is our city after all.