

**Submission
No 186**

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

Name: Mr David Geraghty

Date received: 23/10/2014

David Geraghty

23 October 2014

The Director
Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the Broader Hunter Region
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

ATTENTION: Committee Members

Dear Committee Members,

I am a born and bred Novocastrian who has followed the planning process for the renewal and revitalisation of the Newcastle CBD area for some time. I understand that as a committee you have been tasked with considering the role of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Newcastle City Council, UrbanGrowth NSW, Lake Macquarie Council, and the Hunter Development Corporation in the consideration and assessment of:

- (a) State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Amendment (Newcastle City Centre) 2014
- (b) the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy
- (c) the Whitebridge development plan in Lake Macquarie
- (d) DA 2014/323 – Newcastle East End Development
- (e) the decision to terminate the Newcastle rail line at Wickham and any proposal to construct light rail including along Hunter and Scott Streets, and
- (f) any related matters.

To assist you with this I have set out in the following figure the timeline of studies and policies that have led to the items referenced above in (a), (b), (d) and (e).

The timeline of studies undertaken and alignment of Government policies demonstrate that the subject of the Newcastle Urban Renewal and the termination of the rail line have been investigated and robustly challenged over the past decade. These have been investigated by many government departments demonstrating a whole of government approach has been taken on these issues. In addition during this time there have been different Premiers, Ministers of the individual portfolios of Planning, the Hunter and Transport, and also at least four members for the seat of Newcastle representing both major political parties.

I strongly urge the committee members to be balanced in their assessment and maintain the interests of the citizens of Newcastle and the Hunter. The decision to remove the heavy rail line underpins the urban renewal of Newcastle and cannot be revisited.

After a decade of investigations and discussions the population of Newcastle deserves to be allowed to move on and allow the city to prosper.

Kind regards

David Geraghty

