

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 15/10/2014

Partially Confidential

I am a resident in Newcastle. I am pro appropriate development.

I am most concerned about the closure of the rail line to Newcastle station which now appears to have been pushed by/for developers.

I use the rail into Newcastle regularly - it is well patronised. Many people get on at Newcastle to go to and from Sydney, others go to and from the Hunter. The trains from Maitland and Dungog are well used by workers, visitors and shoppers .

People come to Newcastle station to access the beach. These people will not be able to change to buses with their surfboards.

My daughter comes from Dungog with twin babies. Imagine having to transfer with twins and stroller etc for the last few stations !

My elderly mother visits by train from Sydney she will not be able to change to a bus with her overnight bag.

Trying to get to Wickham or Broadmeadow to meet the train will involve a lot more travel time to ensure a good connection. The trains are NOT frequent so you wont want to miss it. It is already almost 3 hours to Sydney .

The University is building a new campus right near Civic station. There is going to be extremely limited parking. Why would you want to cut the rail ??

The new law courts will need public access. Again why cut the rail ?

Most great cities in the world have rail into the centre.

Why would you remove existing infrastructure ? The Govt says it wants to be an Infrastructure Govt !?

I am also concerned about raising height limits in the central Newcastle area with its historic streetscape up to the cathedral on the hill. Who wants this but developers. There is plenty of space for highrise elsewhere.

Another concern is the alienation of public parkland for private use.

It seems that we have been overwhelmed by all these changes of late. From ICAC we see why.