

**Submission
No 118**

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

Name: Mr Trevor Hooker

Date received: 21/10/2014

To whom it may concern,

My name is Trevor Hooker and I would like to state my objection to the closure of the railway line to Newcastle. As a young person growing up in Dungog, being able to catch the train for a day out at the beach has provided fond memories for me, as it does for the current generation, and if left alone, for future generations. The railway also provides a scenic route into Newcastle along the harbor for residents and provides young children with an enjoyable ride on the modern trains and on steam trains during the famous Steam fest, which brings much needed revenue from tourists. The line is an icon of the Newcastle and Hunter region and has done nothing but provide for the region since its opening. This infrastructure is as important to Newcastle and the Hunter region now, as it has been in the past and can only compliment the revitalization of Honeysuckle. This railway line allows quick and easy access for outlying Hunter residents to commute with the Newcastle CBD for employment, without the need for a time wasting transfer. Furthermore, with the construction of apartments for the University of Newcastle at Civic, students will require the railway line for quick and easy access to the University station at Warabrook. With the economic and community benefits the railway line provides, I do not understand the rationale behind the proposed closure, as with more thorough planning both sides of this argument could be reconciled to a mutually beneficial outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Hooker