

**Submission
No 123**

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

Name: Mr Rod Holding

Date received: 22/10/2014

These current elections are brought to us by the blatant corruption exhibited by Newcastle and Central Coast politicians. This disgrace was paraded before us by I.C.A.C. investigations, but not so highlighted is the return circuit back to developers from their brown paper bag investments. The fourth coal terminal debacle is a case in point, why was standard council development fees of around forty million dollars deleted from revenue. Newcastle City Council's dubious management decisions have led to mass retrenchments of its staff and a fire sale of community assets. By outsourcing or downgrading services as these insiders demanded, only harsh rate increases are left to cover its atrocious planning decisions. Corruption has reduced one of Australia's exporting power houses into a dilapidated wasteland and the I.C.A.C only scraped the surface. The planning process needs openness with community consultation providing best practice, not the secret backdoor deals that have become so normalized in the Hunter Valley.

Rod Holding