

**Submission  
No 89**

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

**Name:** Mr Barry Portus

**Date received:** 20/10/2014

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Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC - Committee Chairman

My submission refers to Planning Process 2 (e) of your inquiry.

The plan as I know it, is to open up the eastern end of the city to the foreshore, thus hopefully revitalising this area of Newcastle. The State Government since elected has not considered any other alternative than their current plan.

In light of the revelations of the ACAC inquiries I have formed the opinion that the Government's intention is to sell off the current heavy rail corridor for high rise development and this would defeat the purpose of the exercise.

The Minister has failed to explain why the heavy rail cannot be diverted underground - a much cheaper option. Why the heavy rail line is being terminated at Wickham on 26/12/2014, before any light rail replacement is in place. Money cannot be the problem as the Newcastle Port has been privatised. Why the light rail must run in Scott & Hunter Streets - As a person of senior years I have experienced the frustration of the stop/start situation when tram and cars travel the same road. Also I have experienced the beauty of the Paris skyline without any high rise buildings.

The number of letters to the editor of the Newcastle Herald expressing similar views to the above has been overwhelming - the government is obviously not listening to the people who care about their city.

The independent MP for Lake Macquarie, Greg Piper has introduced a bill to the state Parliament to protect the Newcastle inner-city rail corridor. My view of the governments intentions on development on this valuable corridor will be determined by the support this bill receives from the government.