

**Submission
No 120**

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

Name: Mrs Ilona Renwick

Date received: 21/10/2014

Planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region (Inquiry)

The Committee

DO NOT CUT THE RAIL LINE FROM WICKHAM TO NEWCASTLE

I am writing regarding the Newcastle Rail line and the present NSW state government's wish to truncate the line at Wickham.

Firstly, those who will benefit most from this truncation - the developers who donated to the two Liberal state government members, Owen and Cornwall are still getting what they paid for.

The fact that ICAC found all people - developers and Liberal party candidates guilty for breaking the law should be sufficient to stop this rail truncation project.

There are other projects in Newcastle worthy of the money that will be spent on this.

I remember the original poll that started the rail truncation push.

A questionnaire or poll was available for residents only in the Newcastle State government electorate to put their views forward on keeping the rail line from Wickham to Newcastle.

As many of those residents don't use the line, not many cared.

This poll was biased.

Big users of the line are those who live in electorates outside Newcastle electorate. It is the easiest way for them to get to town (Newcastle).

I use that section quite often, park at Wickham and catch the speedy train to town.

If I travel by bus on the same route it will take maybe 3 times as long.

On my last journey on Friday 3rd of October, the train was the diesel coming from the Hunter Valley.

It was full with young and older people travelling to town. It is a good service that is well patronised.

No matter what the transport minister, Gladys Berejiklian says, the journey from Lake Macquarie or Dungog, Scone, or anywhere in NSW to the Newcastle City will be more difficult.

Especially if these people are disabled, seniors or carry suitcases or other large objects.

I find it scary that governments, who are only there because enough people vote for them, immediately, when elected only do the wishes of their big donors, in this case the property developers.

Ordinary people and their needs are of no concern to the Baird LNP State Government.

If the government wants more access to the harbour, make more level crossings.

Some people believe this is only the start of the truncation. In the not too distant future Broadmeadow, much further away from the city, will be the final rail stop.

Wickham has limited space nearby for a rail terminus and other facilities that may be needed ie no bus parking nearby - a feature that Newcastle terminal has.

Newcastle has 4 train lines at the terminus, Wickham only two.

It seems very likely that Broadmeadow will be the end of the line, leaving the seventh largest city in Australia with no rail access.

What is this government thinking of? Not the needs of the future.

Please consider seriously what I have written.

I hope you can SAVE OUR RAIL

Thanks Mr Nile for taking this cause up.