

**Submission
No 201**

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

Name: Mr John Hayes and Mrs Rosie Hayes

Date received: 24/10/2014

To

NSW Legislative Council Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the Broader Hunter Region

Dear Committee members.

We have been living in Newcastle for 11 years now and love it, but we are not happy about the truncation of the rail line.

We have been signing petitions to keep the rail line, and writing submissions, ever since we arrived.

Overpasses and underpasses are used all around the world, so why spend \$400 million to rip it up, and replace with 2 Km of inefficient light rail.

To avoid the cost of overpasses or underpasses:

Beautify it - take down most of the Cyclone fencing; and add trees, shrubs, lawn etc.

Slow the train down from Hamilton Station to Newcastle Station (Milton Caine talks about adding Magnetic braking to enable very quick stopping).

This would allow:

pedestrian walk ways, and cycle ways along the newly liberated rail Corridor,
and

many Pedestrian crossings of the rail line at ground level.

This works safely in Perth and many overseas cities;

removal of the gates at Railway Street and Stewart Ave,

and

more car crossings at Ground level - all without the need for Gates.

Currently we have:

a new city University campus about to be built, with only 5 car parks;

and

the new law courts, without even enough parking for the judges; and no parking at all for Clients and Lawyers using the courts;

not to even mention

all the new residential and office accommodation that Urban Growth and GPT have planned for the CBD and East and West Newcastle.

This rail line services the whole of the Hunter Valley, the Central Coast, and Passengers to and from Sydney, not just the business people of Newcastle.

Changing the mode of transport, at Broadmeadow or Hamilton, or Wickham will be a real put-off, and will discourage rail usage.

What is needed within the City and near suburbs is free transport to get people, especially the next generation of uni students, to use the GREAT rail asset that we already have.

By saving the \$400m on the current Liberal plan, more and better bus & ferry services could be provided which will better co ordinate with the rail services, which can also be enhanced.

We are happy for this submission to be public.

We request a speaking slot when the committee has public hearings in Newcastle.

Please acknowledge, by return email that you have received our submission. Thank you.

Cheers from Newcastle

John & Rosie Hayes