

**Submission  
No 132**

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

**Name:** Dr John Burgess

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1. the original proposal to cut the railway line was to terminate it at Civic; it is now Broadmeadow. What is the case for Broadmeadow and why have the number of stations to close progressively increased?
2. Cities everywhere require accessible and reliable public transport infrastructure. The removal of such infrastructure is difficult to comprehend and more difficult to reverse once it is enacted.
3. The proposed arrangements will force more cars into the city and add to the inconvenience of travellers and commuters who will now have to undertake multiple changes between taxis/buses/train - this is highly inefficient and resource wasteful.
4. The premise for the line cut was city renewal. This case was never made; it was largely an assertion. On the contrary the ongoing development of the university precinct, the legal precinct and several hundred new apartments in the city requires a reliable rail link into the city. These developments have been taking place with the current rail link. There is an opportunity to use the rail link as a catalyst for tourism, with for example links to cycle and walking paths from the centre of Newcastle.
5. New lines and stations have been constructed in Sydney and the rail network extended and modernised. This was necessary to reduce car use and improve commuting times. However, it is regrettable that the state government has decided that in another city the rail network should be reduced. Why is the fundamental case for a comprehensive rail network different in Newcastle from Sydney?
7. The links between developers and politicians that have received extensive press coverage indicate that any program of curtailing public sector transport infrastructure that provides "development" opportunities should be very carefully considered.
8. I cannot comprehend why essential and important urban infrastructure is being removed. Future growth and development requires a comprehensive rail network that should grow in the future with links to Raymond Terrace, Newcastle Airport and the southern beaches.