

Submission
No 196

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 23/10/2014

Partially Confidential

- * I am a local East End resident
 - * I have been following the rail debate for a long time (affiliated to no one)
 - * I think the people of Newcastle should have a say on the rail NOT developers (that pay 'bags' full of money in political donations) For example Jeff McCloy exposed in the ICAC inquiry and Newcastle business man Hilton Grugeon who donated over \$250,000 to the 'Hunter First' Lobby Group.
 - * Hilton Grugeon, Jeff McCloy and associates are a major driving force behind this, trying to convince their way will revitalise the CBD (e.g.: Jeff McCloy's 'Fix our City' Campaign) but only greed motivates them with no concern for the heritage of the city
 - * Why do plans for light rail not utilise the existing rail corridor? Why is the rail corridor being saved? Probably because mass development would be easy on rail land because no underground mining beneath corridor meaning much more cost effective for developers.
 - * The Free CBD Bus has distorted rail passenger figures.
 - * Major players mentioned above have large land parcels near the proposed Wickham interchange
 - *Monteath & Powys have already surveyed the rail corridor meaning quick to truncate and develop on rail corridor
 - * For interests sake here is some of the companies that Hilton Grugeon either owns or has a stake in: 'Hunter Land', 'Hunter Quarries', 'Hunter Concrete', 'Hunter Precast', 'Geoff Craig Associates' 'ADW Johnson', 'GWH Build', 'Drayton Building', 'Rutherford Tile Factory'.
 - * Hunter Development Corporation and their 'grubby' activities.
 - * Thanks again to David Shoebridge, Mehreen Faruqi and all other politicians and participants for holding these corrupt politicians and developers to account.
- P.S Most great cities have rail running into the CBD and the world has embraced rail as the preferred method of public transportation while only Newcastle plans to truncate their rail line.