

**Submission  
No 143**

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

**Name:** F J Gardiner

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21/10/2014

The Director,

Select Committee on Planning Process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter Region,

Parliament House,

Macquarie St,

Sydney,

NSW

2000

Dear Sir or Madam,

All trains except the Red Buller, XPT and the Explorer stopped at Newcastle for the last 30 years so why the change. People from Dungog or Seatonville to leave early for John Hunter Hospital appointments and Seatonville can get off at Newcastle at 3-0 in AM leave the platform and catch a bus across the road to go to John Hunter Hospital and come back to come home. The Seatonville train gets to Weebham at 5-00 AM then only if it reaches Newcastle. If they have to have alternative breakfast from Weebham to Newcastle the time would be a lot longer and a tiresome day for them. It seems funny that the railway staff are not allowed to have any say in these decisions or they rather. The power to be don't say what alternative ways are available to go to Newcastle from Weebham and are they happy to what these plans are. While we have the rail service to Newcastle there is bus buses and cars on the road. To drive a car down to Newcastle you have the freedom to find a car park and they could be more cars on the road. I would say leave the line open to Newcastle as it is now. The rail line from Weebham to Newcastle is there so why not use it and waste money on alternative ways. Years ago the steam train from the country would go straight in to Newcastle, they would uncouple the engines and load the 3rd class steam engines on the side and you would go out backwards on your way to Sydney. Later on the side from like the Red Buller, XPT and Explorer did not go into Newcastle but stopped at Broadmeadow. In the summer time the people from the country could go to Newcastle to the beach and enjoy themselves and come back home.

Yours faithfully

F. G. Gardiner