

Submission  
No 90

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 20/10/2014

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Partially Confidential

I would like to make a submission for the inquiry into Newcastle's planning process.

I believe the reasons given for removing the train line from Wickham to Newcastle to be 1) traffic hold ups at Stewart Ave and 2) the need to "Open up the harbour to the city"

As I live in Merewether and travel to Heatherbrae almost every day I cross the rail line and there is very little inconvenience with stopping for trains. In fact I believe I have more time waiting for the red lights at the corner of Parkway and Stewart Ave. As a local I believe this reason to be trivial in the context of travel in Newcastle.

The second reason, opening the city to the harbour, I am unsure of to whom the harbour precinct is closed to. My family certainly enjoys access to the Honeysuckle area, which includes two excellent museums. We also walk and ride along the foreshore. The rail line does not in anyway prevent this.

I believe the closure of the rail line will increase buses down Hunter St which is already a problem as they seem to duck and weave in the traffic and if light rail also added to Hunter St as it seems to be proposed will increase this problem.

Also the rail line brings into Newcastle visitors from the region and also backpackers who add life to the CBD. I also occasionally catch the train from Newcastle into Sydney and would not like this option removed.

I firmly believe that removing the rail line would not be in the best interests of most local Novacastrians.