

**Submission
No 131**

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

Name: Dr Jeremy Coleman

Date received: 22/10/2014

Dear sir/madam, I write in support of maintaining the rail line into Newcastle.

After spending the last 5 weeks in Europe and being impressed by the public transport system in Prague ,Paris ,Amsterdam ,Istanbul and London it seems criminal to be ripping out infrastructure(of a heritage nature). In European cities great pride is taken in the efficiency and grandeur of the City stations. .whilst Newcastle is no Paddington Station (London), but does carry significant heritage and architecture significance.

As a user of the rail line it"s inefficiency may be due to poor management. Never in 20 years of use have I been asked to show or produce a ticket.. In effect I could have used the system free of charge if I wasn't willing to pay my fare!!

Change to light rail or put the line underground from Hamilton to Newcastle and then free the land currently used by rail into public/private use..this offers a chance to develop a visionary plan to become the best city in Australia..

Dr Jeremy Coleman