

**Supplementary
Submission
No 58a**

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

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The Sage of Oldcastle
Or; Could it happen here?

Once upon a time long ago in the great city of Oldcastle the Lord Mayor, a lovely lady, decreed that the Foreshores of this wonderful place should become even more beautiful with green parklands and floral gardens to be built from East to west. And so construction commenced and all the folk were greatly pleased. However, a few wealthy business people saw an opportunity to become even wealthier by making tall buildings appear where the Lord Mayor had planned there to be parks and gardens.

When their plan became known, the folk of the city were outraged and politicians, workers, media and the general community joined together and they said; 'No!' in no uncertain manner. But the wealthy business people passed brown paper bags to the powerful chief of the south and he stripped the beautiful Lord Mayor of her planning powers and assumed them unto himself. And so an Hotel appeared contrary to the wishes of the good folk of the city who were ever more angry.

A few years passed and a terrible earthquake devastated the city and many good people were killed and injured. Because of this the faithful passenger rail service connecting the cities surrounding Oldcastle was suspended, not because it was damaged but because nearby buildings were. The wealthy business people recognised a wonderful opportunity to become even wealthier and many of them bought up the lands surrounding the railway. However after the damaged buildings were repaired or demolished the great chief from the south decreed that the railway service would resume as before serving the folk of the city just as it had done for more than a century and they were pleased.

But the wealthy business people were not pleased and they met together and asked themselves ; 'What can we do to overcome the folk of Oldcastle and their supporters to increase our investment value around the railway lands?' And they agreed that they must change the city ways and customs of the Oldcastle folk to be sympathetic to their own. And they devised a program of removing rail way crossings and then declared that the railway was a barrier between the CBD and the Foreshore. They stopped all maintenance and beautification around the rail lands and declared these to be unsightly. They sought the replacement of the politicians who were not sympathetic to their purpose and they rearranged the local media for the same reason. Unions were pacified and so after all that work they recommenced their next campaign to gain control of the railway lands.

But the folk of Oldcastle were not replaced, rearranged or pacified and they protested loudly against the removal of their main transport system. The wealthy business people were angry and more brown paper bags were distributed in high places to overcome the wishes of the folk of Oldcastle.

The battle raged on for more than two decades and neither the wealthy businessmen nor the good citizens of Oldcastle budged an inch. And it was rumoured throughout the land that the big chief from the south had accepted too many brown paper bags. So the sheriff from the south investigated all these events and he declared that the evil business people be banished from the land forever.

The great chief from the south saw that he had been misled and been wrongly influenced and he decreed that from this time forward he and all of his helpers would take more notice of the folk of Oldcastle and so from this day forward it was to be government of Oldcastle by the folk of Old castle for the folk of Oldcastle.

George Paris