

**Submission
No 24**

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

Name: Mr Paul Finnane

Date received: 7/10/2014

Truncation of train at Wickham, Newcastle.

Traffic congestion at Hannell St will not be improved, and given that traffic is predicted to increase, this situation will further deteriorate.

Building tunnels/bridges at level crossings at: Hannell St, Merewether St, Hamilton Station, Adamstown gates will allow traffic to keep flowing while allowing trains to travel. Greenhouse gases will be reduced when traffic is not halted i.e., some 30% of emissions are produced from a stationary position to 30km/hr.

Connectivity with the harbour can be achieved with the addition of one new station (possibly two stations), and extra pedestrian crossings.

Light rail can be built to connect with the existing rail to Nobby's and then through the city to Charlestown, John Hunter Hospital, Callaghan Campus to the Warrabrook Station.

Costs would be lower as costed by 'Save the Rail' group (i.e., \$165 million for tunnels/bridges and crossings). Light rail costs are not known.