

I wish to make a submission concerning two parts in The Terms of Reference for the Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter Region. The two parts are 2D and 2E.

2 D.

The iconic Newcastle East skyline is unique in Australian coastal cities. High rise development would completely spoil the cityscape and ruin something special. This type of development is better suited west of the civic area.

2 E.

The termination of the Newcastle rail line at Wickham is a senseless destruction of a public transport asset and a huge waste of money and resources. The Wickham site is too constricted, and would see this city left with a third rate, non functioning terminus and large questions over the fate of the rail corridor remain unanswered.

From the current Civic station, it is a very short walk to the City Hall, the Art Gallery, and Civic Park, the new University Campus and the new Law Courts. (The Uni Campus and the Law Courts have only about 36 car parking spaces between them).

Under the present arrangement it is only a 12 minute train ride between the two University sites. If the termination at Wickham takes place and the arrangements announced by Gladys Berejiklian are adopted, the result would be much more time and inconvenience with changing to buses from Hamilton or Broadmeadow station. As well it will result in more congestion on the roads, already a problem in peak hours. It will result in many more problems than if the rail line was not terminated at Wickham.

In a time when public

transport use should be encouraged, the rail termination at Wickham will do just the opposite.