

Submission
No 294

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Newcastle already has a rapid train system to the harbour -- 4 minutes from Wickham to Newcastle station. The train takes passengers to Honeysuckle, the museums, theatres, council and what will be a new Court House and University Campus at Civic. Arriving at Newcastle a passenger is at the foreshore, at convenient bus connections to Hunter destinations, including the airport, and close to the ferry terminal. It is 2 blocks across Pacific Park to Newcastle Beach; Nobby's Beach is a short walk across the park and the Hunter Street Mall is 2 blocks.

To spend hundreds of millions of dollars to destroy valuable infra- structure and replace an existing efficient train and bus interchange is a profligate waste of public funds in a time of fiscal constraint. Citizens of Newcastle are increasingly concerned about the role of developers and the lack of public consultation. Who is to benefit? Imagine the impact on the traffic, bike riders, pedestrians and commuters from the latest proposal: buses running every 15 minutes from Hamilton down a narrow peninsula. A light rail would have a similar impact. What is the purpose, when we have an existing off- road system? The train was one of the reasons my family and others I know moved to Newcastle. It is valuable infrastructure attracting people (including tourists and backpackers) to visit Newcastle and to live and work here. Let's keep this beautiful city clean, accessible and uncongested. Put more crossings across the heavy rail line to the harbour. The city is developing rapidly with the rail line in place.