

**Submission
No 252**

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

Organisation: NSW Teachers Federation

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NEW SOUTH WALES TEACHERS FEDERATION

SUBMISSION TO

NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

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

Authorised by

**John Dixon
General Secretary
NSW Teachers Federation**

24 OCTOBER 2014

NEW SOUTH WALES TEACHERS FEDERATION

MAINTENANCE TO RAILWAY ACCESS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEWCASTLE

In August 2005, the Federation brought to the then Government's attention concerns in relation to the possible closure of the Newcastle railway link from Broadmeadow to the Newcastle Terminus. In 2009 the Federation, following a decision of the Federation's Council representing some 300 teachers from across the state, again wrote to the Government reaffirming its view that such a closure will have a serious impact on commuters in the Hunter Region.

Many students in schools, TAFE and universities use this rail service to attend these educational centres. Workers use these services to commute into Newcastle for their employment from other regions such as the Central Coast and Upper Hunter. At weekends, the railway service is used as a vital transport facility to access recreational services and facilities in the Newcastle area.

The Teachers Federation is concerned about the impacts of the truncation of the rail line and highlight the benefits of improving the existing rail infrastructure for the education needs of the communities of both the Newcastle and Hunter Regions. The existing rail infrastructure can effectively transport students and teachers from diverse metropolitan areas of Newcastle and outlying regions into the CBD without delays of interchanging to another mode of transport.

In particular University and TAFE students come from many of the Hunter region's towns. People with disabilities or limited mobility, the elderly or frail, parents with young children and strollers and students traveling to the Conservatorium of Music with musical instruments would be forced to disembark from the train and then proceed and wait for yet another form of transport. The University of Newcastle is building a new campus which is projected to have 8,000 students and 1,000 staff many of whom would be disadvantaged by the truncation.

The Federation reaffirms its opposition to the threatened closure of the rail service and for the railway to the CBD of New South Wales' second largest city to remain in service.