

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

To the Committee on the planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter Region, I wish to make a submission to the committee on the roles of both the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie city councils in regards to the removal of the heavy rail at Wickham station and its subsequent replacement with light rail along Hunter and Scott streets, Newcastle. Newcastle City Council do not currently have open any committee's or current engagements with the community about the decision to end the heavy rail at Wickham station. I believe it is the responsibility of these Councils to engage in genuine consultation and consideration of views held by both residents and users of the rail. This decision appears to have been made behind closed doors without resident input which is all too common but no more acceptable. I also believe it to be the responsibility of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle City councils to ensure all decisions made for and on behalf of our cities are free from corruption and unethical persuasion. With all evidence coming to light recently from ICAC hearings and the resignation of the members for both Newcastle and Charlestown due to corruption I think it would be negligent for these councils to approve any new developments until the ICAC has completed its investigations into illegal developer donations and dirty politics. In conclusion, I do not support the decision to remove Newcastle's heavy rail at Wickham due to concerns about community consultation and corrupt political dealings with developers. It is my opinion that both councils have not fulfilled their role in this decision.

Thankyou.