

**Submission  
No 57**

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

**Name:** Mr Roy Lazarevic

**Date received:** 14/10/2014

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For what is worth, I would like to state my opposition to the NSW State Government's decision to close the Newcastle Rail line by truncating the line at Wickham.

Given that it is the government's role to provide services (including rail transport) and given that we have a perfectly fine piece of infrastructure ie. the rail line servicing the city of Newcastle; why would you remove it?

The rail is not only necessary for current users but is now doubly important given the new Inner City campus in Newcastle, the new law courts and Civic and the associated numbers of people who will use these services. With the announcement of the ridiculously small number of car spaces to go with these developments it is stupid beyond words to not have the rail maintained to service this and other developments in the city of Newcastle.

Given that the government has announced that the land associated with or near the rail line will or may be open to development I do not see how one can support any part of the decision to cut the rail. One only has to look at the goings on in ICAC to get a sense of who is really wanting the rail removed.

I am totally opposed to this decision to close the rail line and would like to see a referendum on this matter at the upcoming by-election in Newcastle or even across all Hunter seats at the next state election.