

**Submission
No 108**

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

Name: Ms Marg Edwards

Date received: 21/10/2014

PLANNING PROCESS IN NEWCASTLE & THE BROADER HUNTER (INQUIRY)

I am a regular user of the rail line from Maitland to Newcastle. The proposed removal of the line will greatly affect commuters from Dungog, Maitland and the Upper Hunter who will be required to change from one mode of transport to another, increasing travel time, costs and creating unwarranted stress for the disabled, elderly and mothers with small children.

The logic is hard to fathom when I see the current operating system adequately catering for the needs of so many.

There are examples of Australian and overseas cities where planning has included rail services to accommodate the movement of commuters for the benefit of business, the environment and leisure activities.

I believe the relationship between developers interests, government organisations, as well as politicians who were involved in the decision to terminate the line, should be fully examined.

Surveys conducted to date reveal that around 72% of the people in the Hunter Valley support the retention of the rail line into Newcastle.

This indicates that the public have considered the issue and are suspicious of the current NSW Government's decision.

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THIS ACTION AND HOPE THE INQUIRY WILL ADVOCATE FOR THE USE OF PUBLIC MONIES FOR MORE WORTHIER PROJECTS