

**Submission  
No 46**

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

**Name:** Mr Shane Forrest

**Date received:** 13/10/2014

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To: The Director, Select Committee on the  
Planning Process in Newcastle and the  
Broader Hunter Region  
Re: NEWCASTLE RAIL

I am writing about my concerns about the  
closure of the heavy railway line into Newcastle.  
I'm from Muswellbrook. And a lot of my mates  
and their families are from here too. And we  
all catch the train into Newcastle up to three times  
a week in summer period. To Surf, Swim, Shop  
etc. We all take the kids, fold up chairs, Beach  
boards, Umbrella, Towels. And me and my mates  
have surfboards up to 6ft long. And have no  
problems getting them on and off the train due  
to more room on the train. ✓

We get on the train at Muswellbrook and  
get all our items settled including the kids.  
And we don't have to get up, change seats,  
or go from one transport mode to another and  
not disturb anyone or the kids as they wait  
patience.

We can get off the train right in the heart  
of Newcastle, where we can do a bit of shopping  
on the Hunter Street Mall at some of those shops  
you don't get in the big shopping centres.

The way things are now. We can stow our  
items after shopping at the railway station in  
the cloak room lockers. for a small fee of \$1.50  
And then we can enjoy the rest of the day  
at the beach. And not have to worry about  
our items we have bought.

With lots of jobs on the line up here,  
and jobs already gone with the mining industry  
and businesses linked to the mining industry,  
we need public transport more than ever.

Its cheaper to go by train to Newcastle because fuel is getting to dear to drive down And we can not afford to take the family away on holidays to a Caravan Parks near the beach

If we can not catch the train rite into Newcastle. We simply wont be going. To much hassle. Having to lug our things of the train on to a bus or light rail. to much bother for us and a lot of other people up hear in the Upper Tenter area

We dont go to Newcastle wen there is track work because of the thought of getting on a bus. due to the lack of room. And nowhere to put our things not even a handbag. I am really annoyed about how this has been decided No One up hear has been thought of. We are just as important up hear as Newcastle people.

And what a Great time to do this. cutting the railway line in the School holidays at Christmas time and in the middle of Summer. What the hell are yous thinking. Not us that for sure, I guess its the money. With all the Corruption and rot going on down there. That when we need it the most.

I even know some elderly people people that catch the train into Newcastle to visit doctors that are close to the Railway Station. They find going to the City very daunting Now with out making things worse. No One wants to sit around Bus stops under little shelter roon for about six people waiting for a bus. Where it is easy for some one or a runners by can snatch you belongings.

Where at the railway station, we all feel more safe with station staff and security around. Wich you do not get at a bus stop. A lot of us up hear use the the railway station as a safe haven.

How about encourage people to the city not turn them away or put them off, with the hassle of changing modes of transport

I had to catch a bus to Newcastle not so long ago. It was late picking us up. 3 1/2 hrs on the bus. And it should have only taken 2 hours at the most. I had to help people get on the bus 2 elderly people and a mother with one young child and a pram. I should not have to do that. Im not employed to do that. We had people standing up because there were no more seats left.

I felt like we were a herd of cattle of to the Abattoirs. No room for anything only our selves.

And the building that they want to put on the railway land. Am I going to benefit from them? Or are they just for the greedy. So we will take from the Needy. I herd theres a University going where Civic station is.

The University could go out near Hexham a lot of other towns and city don't have a University in there main street and they seem to be doing OK (Armidale) etc

What i can see is all you people that want to close the railway in to Newcastle. Havnt used or had I rely on public transport before. Its time you get out in the real world.

We are not happy up here. And want it  
ept

There are places down there where more level  
crossing can be put for vehicles and pedestrians  
I've seen it for my self.

Other places like Tamworth, Dubbo, etc, have the  
railway line going through the centre of there  
cities and one side does not feel cut off  
from the other. Tamworth has level crossing  
on every street up there. 10 level crossing all  
up and you don't feel cut off from one  
side to another

It's the building on the foreshore that does  
the cutting off. You have to walk around  
the building to get to the foreshore and  
that is via the streets where a level  
crossing can be put or is there now.

I have not found a building down there  
yet that I can walk through to get to  
the other side. I have seen building  
down there with car parks under them  
so why can't they put the building over  
the railway line and have the trains  
pass through them. Leave the railway  
where it is and spend money where it  
is more needed.

I and others from Muswellbrook. ~~and~~ I do  
celebrate New Years Eve in Newcastle on  
the foreshore. We always go and return  
by train. The train timetable suits us perfectly.

Is it a fact that this years fireworks  
for New Years eve is cancelled because of no  
transport? The idea that it is to save  
money is crazy because so much is  
wasted on destroying the railway. And  
don't fireworks and New Years Eve celebration

bring in visitors dollars? Because I  
certainly spend my money down there  
when I go. So I think that all decision-  
making should be on hold until after the  
inquiry is completed.

Shane Forrest