

Transport Development for the Hunter Community

Prepared by
Save Our Rail NSW Inc.
saveourrail.org.au

Transport Development for the Hunter Community

Developing the line

Government commitment to invest in the Newcastle line provides the opportunity to upgrade this valuable resource

The challenge now is for the community to unite to win the best deal from the Government for Newcastle and the Hunter

A forward thinking government, two decades ago, electrified the line to Newcastle, providing a great benefit to the region

With growing and ageing population, global warming and Peak Oil looming, now is the time to expand this resource

Transport Development for the Hunter Community

Rail feeds economic growth

*The world's wealthiest cities have least car use.
Strong rail cities are more wealthy.
Rail creates certainty for investment.*

- Prof Peter Newman (Murdoch University, Perth, NSW commissioner for Sustainability) 2004

It has become conventional wisdom to the effect that 'the presence of a railway line incurs an economic benefit in the form of an increase in property values'

- Kellog Brown Root (KBR) Newcastle Transport Options Planning Study 2003

If an urban transit system (Rail) never earned an operating profit, it would pay for itself a thousand times over through its beneficial impact on real estate values and increased assessments.

- Toronto Real Estate Board, Canada

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This region has the benefit of two main rail lines providing:

- Direct access from the region to Newcastle CBD
- Direct electric train link between Newcastle and Sydney
- The electric line also connects Lake Macquarie and the Central Coast with both Sydney and Newcastle

Advantages to Business

- Enhances property values
- Promotes economic development
- Capacity to move large numbers - commuters, customers, for events
- Relieves road and parking congestion
- Promotes tourism via Australia's gateway - Sydney
- Transports clients with limited mobility

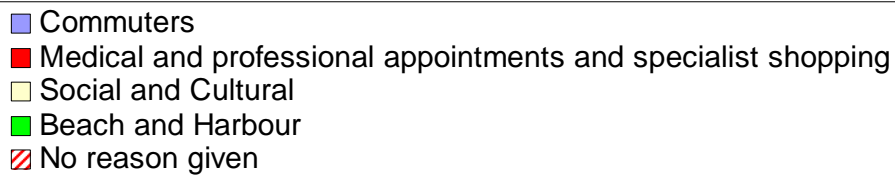
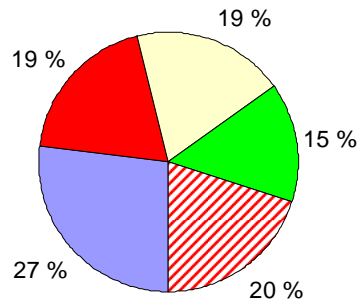
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Reasons for using train to access Newcastle CBD (n=1154)



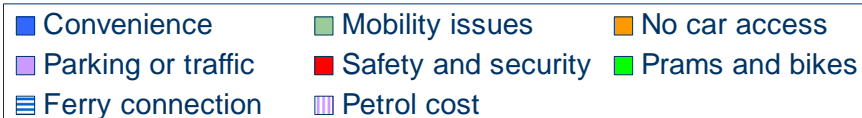
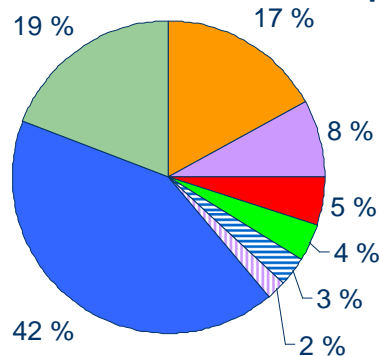
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Reasons for choosing to travel by train,
rather than an alternative mode of transport (n=985)



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A more attractive city through renewal programs, such as the NSW Government's recently released City Plan, will bring people and the city will prosper

Rail beautification will be part of this

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Landscaping at Wahrenonga



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1981 Harbour Foreshore Competition Winning Design



Landscaped Railway Corridor - proposed in the winning design from the 1981 Newcastle Harbour Foreshore Competition
Prepared by the Parks and Playgrounds Movement for Save Our Rail

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An additional pedestrian rail bridge forming an inviting extension of the rehabilitated Cottage Creek walk outlined in the new City Plan



...use your
imagination
to see the
bridge

Illustration from:
*Revitalising Newcastle,
City Centre Plan,*
NSW Government

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Transport facilities could be improved to **invite** passengers in



Illustration from:
Revitalising Newcastle,
City Centre Plan,
NSW Government

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Rail Enhancement

- Park 'n Ride facilities on city fringe
- Increased frequency of trains
- Build Glendale Interchange including bridge to Industrial Estate
- Additional Ferry route – public transport link to Newcastle Airport
- Reinstate rail passenger services to Cessnock
- Additional rail stations in Maitland
- Reclaim unused rail lines for passenger use

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Integrating Road and Rail

Grade separation of rail and road at Stewart Avenue,

- either raised rail flyover,
- or lowered rail line from Hamilton to Civic

Either option would allow commercial development and could complement proposals in the new City Plan

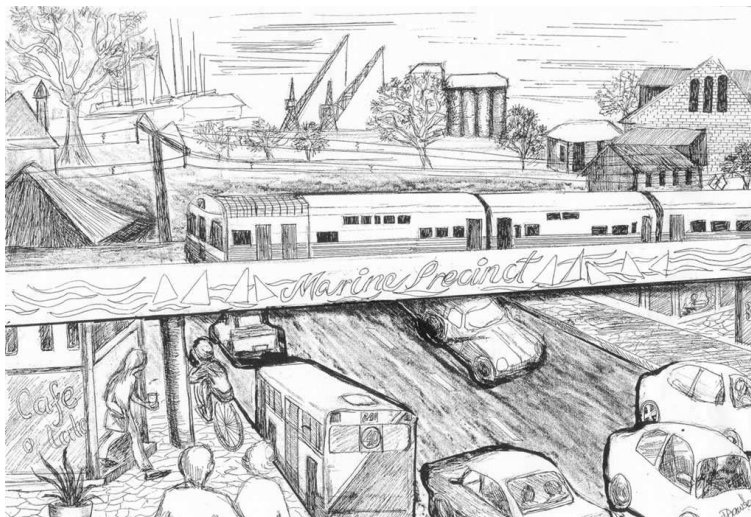
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Integrating Road and Rail



Rail flyover at
Stewart Avenue

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Additional crossings

Steel Street

Pedestrian and bicycle crossing to link western foreshore with Churchill's Corner and Marketown

This could be an arch in the sky, with sloping ramps, or a link from building to building

Worth Place

Pedestrian and vehicular crossing

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Civic Station Concourse - cultural centre link to the harbour



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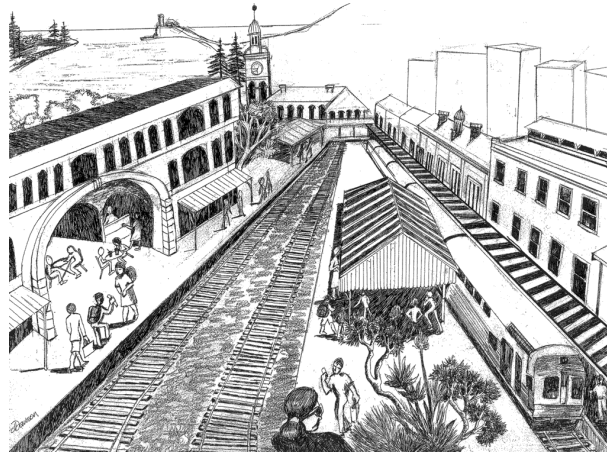
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Newcastle Station Enhancement

Commercial development and access from the western end of platforms to Bolton Street and Queen's Wharf



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Integrating transport

Review bus operations

- improve services
- redress problems arising from recent timetable changes
- promote integration of road, rail and ferry services
- rationalise school bus services

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Integrating transport

Hunter Region Transport Authority

To co-ordinate all transport in the region, responding to local community needs

Fare Free Zone

Expand the successful Inner Newcastle Fare Free Zone to rail and Park 'n Ride

Integrated Ticketing

For public bus, private bus, train and ferry

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Conclusion

Public transport is vital for the broader community and business
Cities with good public transport attract customers, workers and tourists and therefore prosper

Appearance is important – tourists spend big money to visit attractive places
Newcastle needs easy access, from the Hunter Valley, Lake Macquarie, the Central Coast and from our capital city.

Direct rail connections are essential for economic growth.

Save Our Rail and the Hunter community supports improvement and expansion of public transport services, but will not accept any interruption to the direct electric service to Newcastle.

We look forward to a united community advancing transport for a progressive city and region.

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