

Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and
the Broader Hunter Region

The planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter region

Interim report

Ordered to be printed 18 December 2014 according to
Standing Order 231

Summary of recommendations

- Recommendation 1** **59**
That the NSW Government provide all of the documents listed in the order for papers relating to planning in Newcastle and the Hunter, dated 23 October 2014, by 31 January 2015, as requested by the committee.
- Recommendation 2** **65**
That no steps be taken to remove Newcastle's existing rail infrastructure until a peer-reviewed report is obtained by the NSW Government that thoroughly considers the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of the alternative options of removing and retaining the existing rail line.
- Recommendation 3** **65**
That in undertaking the cost benefit analysis in Recommendation 2, the NSW Government consider a series of alternative options to the removal of the rail line including sinking the rail line, constructing additional overbridges and/or level crossings, landscaping the existing rail corridor and reducing train speeds.
- Recommendation 4** **72**
That the NSW Government not proceed with the proposed Hunter Street light rail route unless and until supported by a peer-reviewed cost benefit analysis that thoroughly considers not only the retention of the existing rail line but also the provision of light rail on the existing rail corridor.
- Recommendation 5** **76**
That, if the truncation of the Newcastle heavy rail line proceeds, the NSW Government postpone the date of truncation until construction of the light rail service commences.
- Recommendation 6** **83**
That, if the truncation of the Newcastle heavy rail line proceeds, the NSW Government ensure that the unused portion of the rail corridor be used only for low scale development associated with community, recreational and public uses.
- Recommendation 7** **83**
That, if the truncation of the Newcastle heavy rail line proceeds, the NSW Government ensure that any proposed development on the unused portion of the rail corridor be subject to a transparent planning process, under the control and direction of Newcastle City Council, that involves ample opportunity for public consultation.
- Recommendation 8** **102**
That the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure ensure that the conflicts of interest held by the General Manager of Hunter Development Corporation, Mr Robert Hawes, are consistently managed in accordance with the NSW Planning and Infrastructure Conflicts of Interest Policy and Guidelines 2011.