



The Hon Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

PQ15/00878

Ms Ronda Miller
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Office of the Clerk
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Ms Miller

I refer to the petition presented by Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP, Member for Newcastle, about the Transport Administration Act section 99A.

I can assure Mr Crakanthorp and members of the Newcastle community, the NSW Government is not seeking to amend section 99A of the *Transport Administration Act*. Rather, the current bill before the Parliament, the *Transport Administration Amendment (Closure of Railway Line at Newcastle) Bill 2015*, has been introduced to comply with the requirements of this section of the Act.

This bill aims to end any uncertainty relating to the removal of rail infrastructure. It will ensure the construction of the Wickham Transport Interchange and work on the new light rail can proceed.

The NSW Government is committed to improving public transport in Newcastle and the Hunter region. We will deliver an effective and accessible transport interchange at Wickham and introduce light rail to Newcastle. Light rail will improve connections between the city centre and the waterfront, and better connect residents and visitors to Newcastle's beaches.

The NSW Government wants to ensure the best outcome for the long overdue renewal of the Newcastle CBD.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

THE HON ANDREW CONSTANCE MP