

(No. 68.)



1880.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

ROAD ACCOMMODATION:

PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF CASTRA.

Presented by Mr. Braddon, August 19; and ordered by the House to be printed,
August 20, 1880.



To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Land Proprietors and Residents on the East and West Castra and Old Gawler Roads and vicinity thereof.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners are principally Selectors and Farmers who have sunk their capital and labour on land in the Leven District, West Devon, and are dependent upon the agricultural prosperity of a tract that was a dense forest until they entered upon it.

That your Petitioners have fully shared in the exertions which have made the District of Port Sorell the first agricultural district of the Colony; that they have been, and are, pioneers whose example and labours must facilitate further settlement upon Crown Lands south of them; and that they have for years paid uncomplainingly their share of the cost of railways that do not at all benefit them.

That now, after years of protracted toil, your Petitioners find themselves in many respects at greater disadvantages than they were formerly. Their farms no longer yield equally large crops without the aid of fertilisers, and while their requirements of carriage have increased their roads have become almost impassable.

That the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works, on his late visit to the N.W. Coast, saw for himself the autumn condition of the East Castra, Old Gawler, and West Castra Roads, and condemned the two first by pronouncing them as bad as it was possible for any roads to be.

That the above roads are now, in the winter, much worse than they were then; the former being absolutely unsafe for men and cattle, as the many broken vehicles lying abandoned on the East Castra Road testify.

That in consequence of the foregoing insuperable obstacles to transport your Petitioners are unable to cart their produce to market on remunerative terms, and in many instances, therefore, cannot cultivate that crop (Potatoes) which, with good road communication, pays the farmer better than any other on the N.W. Coast; whilst they are frequently obliged to keep their produce lying in their barns, and are only with great difficulty able to bring up from the Leven seed grain and articles required for ordinary consumption.

That the foregoing serious difficulties, besides threatening the existing settlements, must inevitably prevent extension, and are therefore not only immediately detrimental to the interests of your Petitioners, but as certainly, and with wider scope, injurious to the interests of the State and Colony at large; and your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will, in this Session, give your earnest consideration to good road communication as well as to the broad question of encouraging agricultural settlement, which question will naturally comprise the individual case of your Petitioners.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 158 Signatures.]