

(No. 114.)



1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

DERWENT VALLEY RAILWAY:

PETITIONS AGAINST DEVIATION *VIA* ELLENDALE.

Presented by Mr. Dodery, August 21, and ordered by the Legislative Council to
be printed.



To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council.

The Petition of the undersigned Taxpayers of the Colony of Tasmania and Persons interested in the extension of the Derwent Valley Railway,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have for a long time past contributed through the General Revenue to the support of the Railways of the Colony without having, as yet, participated in such direct benefits from Railway communication as your Petitioners conceive they are entitled to.

Your Petitioners therefore look forward with hope to the extension of the Derwent Valley Line to the Ouse at no distant date, and from thence, in due time, to the mineral country on the West Coast.

Your Petitioners have heard with regret that an attempt has been made to reopen the question of the route of the proposed extension between Glenora and the Ouse, with a view to making a deviation through the Settlement of Ellendale.

Your Petitioners would point out that the extent of available land from which traffic for a Railway may be expected to be developed is very much greater on the eastern than on the western side of the Derwent.

That on the eastern side of the Derwent the country is for the most part available for agriculture to the farthest limit, from which produce could with profit be brought to the Railway, whilst on the western side the progress of settlement is barred, at no great distance from the River Derwent, by the mountainous character and barren nature of the land towards the westward.

Your Petitioners are therefore of opinion that, if any deviation is to be made from the route as surveyed, such deviation should be in the direction of giving greater facilities to the inhabitants of the eastern side of the Derwent, rather than in the direction of an expensive and comparatively useless deviation into the mountainous district to the westward.

Your Petitioners would call attention to the fact that a contract survey has already been made, at considerable expense, the greater part of which would be useless if the Ellendale deviation were adopted. That a flying survey of the proposed deviation, made by the Engineer-in-Chief, sufficiently demonstrated that the proposed deviation would greatly increase the cost both of the construction and of the working of the line, inasmuch as the distance would be largely increased, and the line would have to be carried to a much greater elevation.

Your Petitioners unhesitatingly state their opinion that there is no country to be served by the proposed deviation which would warrant any large addition to the cost of the line; and, in confirmation of their opinion, they would confidently appeal to the judgment of any competent and impartial judges, as, for instance, to that of the gentlemen who travelled through the District as Commissioners for the Government to report upon the prospects of the line when first proposed.

Your Petitioners would therefore respectfully pray that, if any deviation is made from the line as surveyed between Glenora and the Ouse, it may be such as will give greater facilities to the settlers on the eastern side of the Derwent, and that the deviation by way of Ellendale may not be adopted.

Here follow 115 signatures.

Another Petition, in the same terms, from 11 Taxpayers and others, presented on the same date.

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.