

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

My name is Paul Cabalzar and I have a railway line passing through my property at Turners Marsh. I have run successful businesses for 50 years and have invested my time and money into the North East Railway Project because I believe it is going to be one of the best tourist things to happen in Tasmania in many years. There are a lot of good experienced men who know what they are doing and I don't understand this mad push for bikes which is just a fad.

I never do anything unless I have thought about it, I am a successful businessman who knows when I am onto a good thing. Why would anybody waste money and rip up a railway that is estimated to be \$40mill. It doesn't make business sense.

This will be one of the best tourist attractions for Tasmania if everybody gets smart and stops taking so much notice of bike riders.

They have taken over the roads and now are trying to take over the railways. If this goes ahead it will take away the chance to use the railway for tourists and people who can't ride a bike.

It seems ridiculous that Tasmania is trying to destroy this million dollar asset when there are investors and people who will make it work and have a useable railway line.

There needs to be more in this state than bikes, people who don't ride a bike are missing out.

When I was invited to a meeting in 2015 and was told that a bike path was going to replace the railway, I couldn't believe it. I constantly have motor bikes and idiots riding along the railway at any time day or night. They are planting drugs and have dogs and nobody controls them now. Why should other people living on the railway have to have the same treatment?

It is time that everyone gets smart and wakes up that this is just bike riding fad. That will be when they realise that a mistake has been made, but it will be too late.

How can anyone compare a bike rider who spends nothing to a train load of people who will pay to have a trip through a tunnel and spend money. The tunnel on this line has history and is the second longest in the state. Doesn't that count for anything?

Peter Gutwein in his decision to still rip up the railway for bikes was hoping the train would fail. He actually thought it was a good idea to give bikes a railway tunnel? It is just stupid.

When a person from Lilydale was trying to get the bikes it was to help herself. She didn't care about anyone else. She had two businesses at Lilydale so was obviously keen to get customers. Now she works for Tasrail.

At a meeting with farmers and people who lived along the line they were really upset about bikes and horses and motor bikes going through their properties. It made sense to save a railway that wouldn't take very much to get it back working again.

This was the first I heard about the Dorset Council getting a grant for \$1.47mill from the Government to rip up the existing railway. I couldn't understand why any government would want to destroy a railway.

I went to Burnie Council and put in an offer for the old Burnie market rail car and the trailer. I invested over \$80,000 because I believe that a tourist and heritage train will be a good business to operate on the railway.

I have since invested another \$20,000 to transport the railcar to Karoola and make repairs to the rail car. I am replacing all the windows, and refurbishing it. There are a fantastic lot of volunteers who come a several of times a week to work on the railcar and are getting the railway ready for the trailer at Karoola.

I have spent over \$10,000 on signs and pamphlets and marketing material to save the railway. It would be an absolute disgrace if it was to be removed.

During the election I spoke with Peter Gutwein to let him know that I was prepared to fund the repairing of the Karoola Bridge. He asked me to put it in writing to the Treasury Department. I did that. This was never acknowledged by Peter Gutwein or the Treasury Department.

At least the Launceston Council have finally made a good decision to keep the railway to their border at Wyena and this will give us the Tunnel and Denison Gorge which then makes it a profitable enterprise. To go from Turners Marsh to Lilydale Falls would not be profitable. To pull up the rest of the railway would be a very poor decision as it could be used in the future for freight.

At the beginning we will run the train from Turners Marsh to Wyena. In the future ongoing negotiations should be to take it to Scottsdale. We would let them out to eat and look around and then get back on the train. It is a scenic train to Scottsdale to increase the income into Scottsdale.

To take the train into the city, will make this a better destination as people would be able to board the train at Inveresk and return.

I have been along the bike track from Scottsdale. It is not used. Why wreck a railway when nothing has to be done. Please make a decision to leave the railway in place and give the railway group a chance to make it work.

Regards



Paul Cabalzar.
27 October 2018.