

(No. 139.)



1878.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

B R A N C H R A I L W A Y :

**P E T I T I O N F R O M B O T H W E L L , H A M I L T O N , A N D N E W
N O R F O L K .**

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands, and ordered by the House to be
printed, June 11, 1879.



To His Excellency FREDERICK ALOYSIUS WELD, Esquire, C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Tasmania.

The Petition of the undersigned Landholders in the Districts of Bothwell, Hamilton, and New Norfolk.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT the above-named Districts contain an aggregate area of three million four hundred and forty-eight thousand six hundred acres; that more than two million acres of such area consists of unalienated Crown lands, rich in undeveloped mineral, agricultural, and pastoral resources; and that the annual value of rateable property in the three districts amounts to £57,686.

2. That your Petitioners for some years past have contributed, and are now contributing, through the General Revenue to the payment of the interest on the cost of constructing the Launceston and Western Railway; and will in a similar way contribute more or less to the payment of the interest on the cost of constructing the Main Line Railway.

3. That though the said Railways undoubtedly help materially to increase the general prosperity of the Country, yet while your Petitioners remain as they are now, quite isolated and cut off from all direct participation in the benefits they confer, the possession of the advantages afforded by these Railways by the holders of land within reach of their influence involves serious loss and inconvenience to your Petitioners individually, inasmuch as they are thus precluded from competing in the production of meat, grain, and other produce on equal terms with those landholders who enjoy such advantages; and your Petitioners are in this respect relatively in a much less advantageous position than that which they occupied previous to the construction of any Railways in the Colony.

4. That your Petitioners have reasonable grounds for belief that, for a cheap line of Railway suitable to the present requirements of these districts, a practicable route can be found branching from the Main Line Railway at Bridgewater, passing through the Valley of the Derwent, and *via* Hamilton and Bothwell, connecting again with the Main Line Railway at Oatlands or Jericho.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that Your Excellency will cause to be placed upon the Estimates for the year 1880 a sufficient sum to provide for the survey and estimate of cost of such line of Railway.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 338 Signatures.]