

(No. 86.)



1857.

---

T A S M A N I A.

---

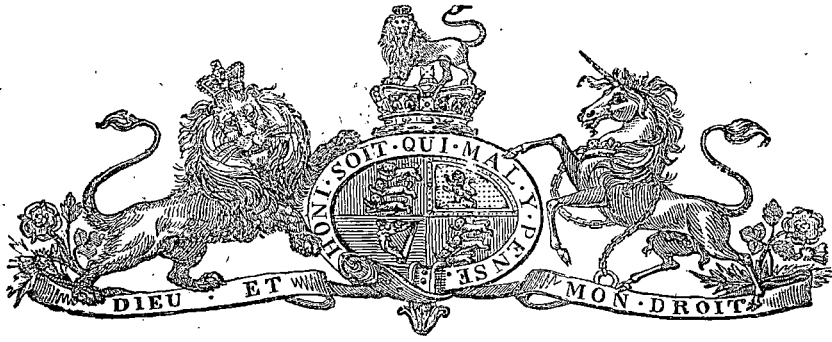
R A I L R O A D S.

P E T I T I O N (No. 60.)

FROM CERTAIN OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND IN THE  
ROAD DISTRICTS OF DEVON, MIDHURST, CHUDLEIGH, AND  
THE UPPER MEANDER.

---

Presented by Mr. Rooke, and ordered by the House to be printed, 17 December,  
1857.



*To the Honourable the Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania,  
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Owners and Occupiers of Land in the Road Districts of Devon, Midhurst, Chudleigh, and the Upper Meander.

SHOWETH :

THAT the state of the existing roads in the said Districts renders it impossible to convey produce to market during a greater portion of the year; and that the amount of rates collected under the *Cross and Bye Roads Act* is totally inadequate to form and maintain a metalled road.

That a wooden Railway or Tramroad from the Township of La Trobe on the River Mersey to Deloraine, with a branch approaching towards Chudleigh, would afford your Petitioners the advantage of a ready access at all seasons to market.

That 260,000 bushels of grain, besides large quantities of potatoes, are annually produced to the westward of Deloraine.

That your Petitioners consider the proposed Railroad will be reproductive,—that it will materially increase the growth of grain and vegetables, and open a market for timber, hay, fruit, and various other articles.

That a line has been surveyed from La Trobe to Deloraine, with a branch to within six miles of Chudleigh, the distance being thirty-one and a half miles, and the estimated cost being, capable of carrying locomotive engines with trains at a speed of per hour, £50,000.

That the proposed line of road will pass through about eleven miles of Government land of indifferent quality, but will be contiguous to Avenue Plains, Long Plains, Native Plains, and the Sassafras, forming an area of 15,000 acres of rich land adapted for agricultural purposes; and although somewhat remote from, will tend to open out that extensive agricultural district known as Kentish Plains, computed to contain 30,000 acres of land, totally unoccupied at present.

That the Road District of Chudleigh contains 134,000 acres of unoccupied Government land,—that of Midhurst 63,000 acres,—that of Upper Meander 36,000 acres,—which the proposed road will render available, as well as a portion of the 450,000 acres in the Road District of Devon.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to take into consideration the benefits this undertaking will confer on the before-named Districts in particular and Colonial interests generally,—the tendency it will have to enhance the value of the Government lands, and to develop the agricultural and mineral resources of the same,—and will sanction by Act of Parliament the formation of a Railroad District, together with a Council or Board for the construction, maintenance, and control of the said Railroad, and authorise a rate to be laid on all lands within the said Railway District until the work becomes reproductive.

And, as in duty bound, your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 235 Signatures.]

JAMES BARNARD,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.