

J.D. Orchard,

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Ms Natasha Exel,
Inquiry Secretary,
North-East Rail Corridor.

I would like to make the following submission.

That a moratorium be put on the North-East line until it is seen whether the Heritage train will be a success or not, as the rails could never be replaced.

With the proliferation of bike trails around the State, perhaps in the future this enthusiasm may not be the same as now, this could lead to much smaller numbers in the North-East, another reason for a moratorium on the N-E line.

As a regular traveler on this line mainly in the 1940's, I believe that to be a success it needs to start as near to Launceston as possible for general public access, and must include the Tunnel and the beautiful Denison Gorge.

The train needs to go at least as far as Golconda where there is a safer entry onto the highway for buses to collect people for the Lavender farm or other places. A bit further on and closer, Nabowla, once the original rail head and main station, does have some facilities like a Memorial Hall near the station as a gathering point.

The rail from Wyena to Golconda also runs alongside the road which makes it ideal for train buffs to be able to follow it and take photos.

From Golconda to Nabowla it goes through Greta where George Peddle had his sawmill to cut Blackwood for his famous chairs and furniture.

With good promotion the rail gives people of all ages and abilities, especially those tourists not wanting to drive our roads, the opportunity to be collected by buses to visit the Wineries or the Lavender farm and enjoy the train ride as well.

(Some family history) The rail line runs for a considerable distance through our property "Blumont Park". My Grandfather John Carins started here about the year 1900. The first station then was Blumont, just past Nabowla.

One problem we have found with people walking the line is the spooking of stock, especially weaned calves, usually leaving two or three flattened fences, something the trains never seemed to do.

John "Dale" Orchard.

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