File No: SF0318
MS:eg

Your Ref:

26 September 2018

Councillor Greg Howard
Dorset Mayor
Dorset Council
PO Box 21
SCOTTSDALE TAS 7260

Dear Mayor

FUTURE OF THE NORTHEAST RAIL LINE

I write to advise that the Council considered its position in respect to the future use of the non-operational Northeast rail line at its meeting on Monday 24 September 2018. A link to the Council agenda is provided as follows:
https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Agendas-Minutes

For some time the Council has been monitoring the progress of the two projects which have been proposed for the rail line - the Rail Trail proposed by yourselves and the Launceston and North-East Railway proposal.

I can advise that the Council is of a view that the best outcome for the region would be for the rail trail and heritage railway to successfully co-exist on the line. The Council agrees with the State Government conclusion that both projects have the capacity to generate economic and employment's benefits, both directly and indirectly for the Northern Region. To this effect, the Council encourages your organisation to work with the Launceston and the North-East Railway organisation to develop an agreed outcome.

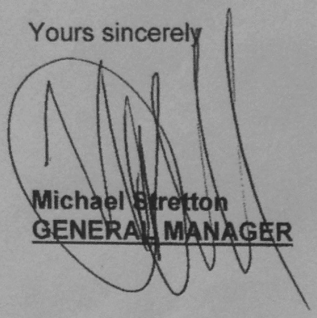
Further, I can advise that the Council's preferred option is for the heritage railway to run from Turners Marsh to Wyena rather than ending at Lilydale, while it is preferred that the rail trail project be extended from its current end at Lilydale Falls to the Lilydale Township. It is understood that the State Government has agreed to provide the additional funding for the latter to occur, however, the Council urges that both organisations further explore the potential for co-location of the rail trail and the railway between Wyena and Lilydale.

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Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss the above.

Yours sincerely



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DORSET COUNCIL

Our Ref: DOC/18/5162

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

5 October 2018

Alderman Albert Van Zetten
Mayor
City of Launceston
PO Box 396
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Please circulate to all Alderman

Dear Albert

North East Rail Line

I refer to the correspondence of 26 September from your General Manager and offer the following response.

It is extremely disappointing to see that your Council was forced to make an uninformed decision on this issue due to the lack of information provided in the agenda item. The agenda item made no mention of how cyclists might actually get from Lilydale Falls to Wyena other than to suggest that both groups should work together to achieve an outcome.

The reality is that according to the Raylink report the cost of co-locating a bike trail within the rail corridor and restoring the rail line for a train is approximately $50 million. Given that the cost of restoring the rail line is quoted at near $16 million that means the cost of building a bike trail in the corridor is $34 million for

the entire length of the line (64 km). That works out to be approximately $530,000 per km.

The distance between Lilydale Falls and Wyena is 14.5 km, therefore, based on the calculated price above it would cost in excess of $7.5 million to co-locate the bike trail in the rail corridor for that distance. Additionally, there is not enough room in the tunnel for a bike trail beside the rail line and a diversion would need to be constructed either beside Tunnel Station Road, Tunnel Road and then along Golconda Road (4km) or above the tunnel through private property. This second option would of course require land acquisition (compensation) and fencing, plus trail construction.

I could not imagine Dorset Council supporting either of these options. I suggest your Council should re visit this issue, this time with all of the information available so they can make an informed decision.

Please feel free to contact our General Manager Tim Watson or myself should you require further information.

Yours sincerely

Greg Howard
Mayor