


Clynton Brown


The Secretary
TasRail Inquiry
Parliament of Tasmania
Parliament House
Hobart TAS, 7000

To the Committee

I am writing to you on behalf of Keep Our Rails Tasmania (KORT) an action group formed to promote the use of TasRail's out of use lines, for tourism and future use.

We are concerned about the lack of use and lack of interest shown by TasRail of other options for these lines the most major being Derwent valley line. There is a well known group based in New Norfolk, Derwent Valley Railway a long formed group. They have had proposals for this closed line even before tasrail's formation!

Another more recently closed line is the Hobart Suburban line, not much has occurred since its closure. This is despite the fact the oldest railway preservation group in the state, Tasmanian Transport Museum, is on the now closed line. The only form of support is that TasRail has stored the old crossing lights.

Diesel Traction Tasmania has for the last 2 years trying to lease a short spur line in Mowbray, a suburb of Launceston. This is mostly removed and not of any use to TasRail's purposes and would make a great base for a new group to start from.

The other two closed lines, the far Western and North Eastern, unfortunately have no present tourist railways on them. With the Western line Don River Railway is showing some interest in it, this is only suggestions at present. The North East line now has a local group promoting the idea of a tourist train as it is one of the most scenic lines in the state.

Sadly the only major action that has occurred on these lines since TasRails formation is the REMOVAL of the last 8km of the North East line! In fact the Railtrack riders on the end of the Derwent Valley line this is the only leased section of closed line in the state. We cannot work out why the removal of lines is the most reported idea and seems supported by TasRail (by letter in the case of the North East Line). The leasing of the lines to tourist railways would not only keep the lines for future potential use but also save on the cost of maintenance of these lines.

TasRail on these matters and all matters of preservation is very difficult to communicate with and can never return an answer. I wish you all the best of luck with this inquiry hopefully we see some progress.

Thank You for your time,

Clynton M. Brown

Keep Our Rails Tasmania