



RAIL, TRAM & BUS UNION

AUSTRALIAN RAIL, TRAM & BUS INDUSTRY UNION

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RJ

4th June, 2007

Ms Sally Edwards,
Director, TME Reviews
Department of State and Regional Development
Level 49, MLC Centre
19 Martin Place
GPO Box 5477
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Edwards,

Re: Review of Tourism in NSW

The RTBU is the major union in the Australian railway industry. It is the oldest continuous railway union in the world tracing its origins to 1863. The RTBU has over several decades been actively involved in the development of rail heritage and cultural exhibits and has participated in the development of railway tourism.

The RTBU in the 1980's, together with other rail unions and employees, played a key role in the development of the "Trains of Treasure" Exhibition which has been presented to hundreds of communities throughout NSW. The interest this has generated in the rich history of NSW's industrial and cultural heritage has been significant. Our experience with the exhibition combined with other developments in railway heritage has enabled the union to conclude there is an untapped market for rail cultural tourism.

The RTBU believes The Review of Tourism in NSW presents a timely opportunity to understand and assess the changing market for tourism services in NSW. The role of Tourism NSW in this changing environment could be to research, identify, co-ordinate and promote potential tourism markets in NSW.

In recent years the rail heritage and tourism industry has expanded through the efforts of a diverse range of organisations including operators 3801 and the Rail Transport Museum. A network of rail heritage museums, historical societies and allied organisations has been developed across NSW.

The potential for rail cultural tourism needs to be professionally assessed and in this regard Tourism NSW has a role to play within the wider context of monitoring and assisting emerging markets. The role of former railway industrial sites such as those under the auspices of NSW

Authorities eg Redfern to add to the tourism market in NSW underlines the importance of inter government coordination and an important facilitative role that could be played by Tourism NSW.

The NSW rail system is an extraordinary valuable asset that could assist NSW reposition itself in the tourist market. Culture in modern mass tourism markets is very much theme driven with literary/film sites, genealogy, bird twitching and train spotting amongst the most popular tourism attraction in the world. It is estimated there are 400,000 train spotters in Japan alone.

The growing importance of cultural tourism and the potential to bring together a diverse rail cultural industry is a role that the Inquiry can assist in .We request the NSW Tourism Review convene a forum of interested rail tourism and heritage parties from across NSW. The RTBU suggests that you liaise with the manager of the recently formed Office of Railway Heritage, Marianne Hammerton (Marianne.Hammerton@railcorp.nsw.gov.au). The Union has recently had discussions with her about the opportunity this Review presents for bringing together a broad range rail organisations in a forum to discuss the potential for rail tourism in NSW.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Jowett', written over the printed name.

Roger Jowett

National Transport Planning Officer