

NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

**EVELEIGH PRECINCT
CONSERVATION POLICY**

THIS POLICY WAS UNDERTAKEN AS
PART OF THE
BUILDING BETTER CITIES
PROGRAMME



Better Cities...in N.S.W.

SCHWAGER BROOKS AND PARTNERS
HERITAGE CONSULTANTS
7 MYRTLE ST
CROWS NEST NSW 2065

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
C & MJ DORING
NEUSTEIN RESOURCES
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995 8400

the treatment of the steam boilers to ensure they do not continue to deteriorate.

This option does not adequately utilise the existing space, captures only some of the interpretive potential and does not make any use of the educational possibilities. In addition it makes very little attempt to become a valid component of or to establish a dialogue with the ATP.

ACTIVE DISPLAY

In this option the machinery could be conserved and arranged in the spaces with some degree of activation of moving parts. The original power sources would not be maintained or reworked. Small electric motors would be used for the activation.

This is also a relatively low cost option but does not achieve very much more than the static display approach.

ACTIVE MIXED DISPLAY

Major sections of the existing machinery would be conserved and presented for display. At various locations amongst the old machinery, new or contemporary technology would be displayed and modern techniques such as video displays would be set up. In this way there would be an interaction between the new and the old.

This option requires considerable investment to establish a new display environment. There is a danger that the integrity of the old would be compromised by partial loss and by a cleaning up of the general precinct. It is also possible that there may be some confusion created if the separation between new and old was not handled well.

ACTIVE WORKSHOP

The preferred option is one which retains the existing in-situ machinery, reactivates key aspects of the power sources, recommissions other items and supplements the installation with equipment brought in from other railway workshops and annexes. The objective is to establish the facility as an operating mechanical engineering resource. It would be focussed in Bays 1-4A and would use the remaining space to display or use

contemporary equipment and interpretive facilities.

The overall operation could include the following functions.

- Repair of historic railway equipment.
- Conservation of architectural metalwork
- Production of decorative metalwork.
- Production of one-off items or test rigs for ATP members.
- Interpretive funding for historic and contemporary technology.
- Educational resource training in traditional metal work trades.
- Educational resource to expand the training of contemporary mechanical engineering students.

The primary aim would be to collect and display a working museum representing the state-of-art engineering workshop technology of late 19th to early 20th century, which was crucial to the maintenance of the NSW railways system, and also represents other workshops which made agricultural and mining machinery, etc, and helped transform Australia from an agricultural colony to an industrialised nation.

The display would be of general interest to school pupils and the visiting public. It would be of special interest and value to students of engineering trades and engineering professions, as they could see and understand the operation of these robust, simple machines more easily than in the more enclosed and complex modern, electric equivalents. The tools could be operated to make short-run or one-off customised orders or experimental rigs for ATP, or repair heritage rolling stock, as well as for educational demonstrations.

This option will require perhaps the greatest expenditure but has the potential to become the most useful and effective approach in terms of both conservation aims and the continuing exploitation of the resource. It should be able to attract funding from education sources as well as heritage or cultural bodies. It will enable this component to become a viable and attractive part of ATP.

There are current initiatives to establish a series of TAFE courses in NSW which focus on the teaching of traditional heritage craft skills.

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