

BENDIGO TRAMS SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at 255 View Street 22nd October, 1971.

Meeting commenced 5.15p.m.

Present: V. Smyth (Chairman) J. Granter M. L. A., F. Grimwade M. L. C., R. Trethewey M.L.A., H. Biggs, J. Bright, R. Green, E. Harrison, F. Hesse, C Jeffrey, M. Mansfield, D. McClure, D. O'Hoy, A. Richardson, J Sullivan.

Apologies: S. Thomas

Minutes of the last meeting were read

V. Smyth outlined the present position and pointed out the need for action at government level to retain the track on the highway section of the route and the tram sheds.

H. Biggs emphasised the unique characteristics of Bendigo's Tramways and their historical significance in tramway development.

The reasons for requesting the specific section of track were outlined as in the original submission to Council. A newspaper article quoting the Department of Tourism as stating that country centres must preserve points of historical interest if they are to attract tourists, was mentioned by D. O'Hoy.

J. Granter suggested that P. Dickie, Minister for Tourism should be invited to appraise the situation as soon as possible as the matter needs urgent attention. Following the visit of the Minister preparations should be made for a deputation to the Premier.

Regarding the tram sheds, V. Smyth mentioned the high cost of altering the existing sheds and the desirability of their retention for the trams. A new building could probably be built for a similar expenditure.

R. Trethewey stated that the Minister for Power and Fuel would be happy to see a deputation on November 19th in Bendigo. This matter of the tram sheds could then be discussed.

It was finally suggested that Mr Dickie's visit should preferably take place before Mr. Balfours.

At this point the parliamentary representatives left the meeting.

General Business:

Reports

Badges - E. Harrison reported that enquiries were under way but no details were available yet.

Post Cards - D. O'Hoy reported that printing of post cards of old trams was being investigated. No prices available at this stage.

Publication of submission to Council - D. McClure reported that 200 copies of 20 pages each would cost :

\$112.40 + 15% sales tax (if applicable) duplicating
\$ 15.50 covers printed by Cambridge Press

Resolved that as profit margin would be too low and probability of quick sale poor, nothing be done regarding reprinting at this stage.

Restoration of Tram - K. Hesse reported that the S.E.C. was prepared to make a tram available for immediate restoration and repainting. Details such as where restoration work could be done to be arranged. K. Makepiece offered his assistance with restoration.

Mr. Downey stated again that the tram sheds would not be available to Trust. A transformer would be needed as well as a converter and would have to be purchased - no price stated.

V. Smyth reported the availability of a \$500 unsecured loan from the Bank of New South Wales to provide funds on a short term basis for promotion activities.

Resolved to hold another meeting when facts were available from other members of the publicity sub committee.

Meeting closed 6.30p.m.

Chairman

Secretary.

Bendigo Trams Sub Committee

22 - 10 - 1971

Summary of Tourist Tram Campaign

The position at this date is as follows:

- (1) The S.E.C. has agreed to hand over all the requested trams with the exception of 1 Burney car promised to the Tramways Museum.?
- (2) The rotary converted (AC to DC power), equipment needed to operate the trams, uniforms, ticket punches will all be handed over to the Bendigo Trust by the S.E.C.
- (3) The section of track from the intersection of Nolan and McCrae Streets to the Joss House will be retained by the City Council if required.
- (4) The S.E.C. does NOT want to hand over any portion of the existing tram sheds.
- (5) The C.R.B. is strongly opposed to the retention of tram tracks on the highway from the Central Deborah Mine to the intersection of McCrae and Nolan Streets.
- (6) However ALL State Parliamentary representatives have indicated their support for our proposal to run a tourist tram from the Central Deborah Mine to the Joss House along the existing historical route.
- (7) Resolved at the meeting on 22nd October, that immediate approaches be made to Mr. P. Dickie, Minister for Tourism requesting that he come to Bendigo to inspect the Tram Retention Proposal and survey the proposed route.
- (8) It is hoped that Mr. Dickie's visit will lead to a deputation to the Premier to gain Government Support for the proposal.
- (9) A deputation will also see Mr. Balfour, Minister for Power and Fuel when he visits Bendigo on 19th November to discuss restoration of the roads after the removal of tram tracks.
