

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Copy for BRANCH MANAGER

AVM/JC

7725

From ENGINEER AND MANAGER

11th June, 1957.

To ACTING MANAGER, BALLARAT BRANCH
(Similar letter sent: A/Ball., N/W/R.)

TRAMWAYS:

For your information, attached hereto is a copy of the reply of the Minister of Electrical Undertakings dated 4th June, 1957, to certain Members of Parliament with reference to the petition organised recently at Ballarat.

(SIGNED) K. SUTHERLAND

Enclos.

Similar letters sent to :-
Hon. V. O. Dickie, M.L.C.,
Hon. R. T. White, M.L.A.
G. L. Scott, Esq., M.L.A.

4th June, 1957.

Dear Mr. Jones,

I refer to the petition which you presented to me in conjunction with other Members of Parliament on the 23rd May, 1957.

It is noted that the terms of the petition are as follows :-

"That the Government will defer consideration for a period of five years of the suggestion that the Ballarat Tramway system be scrapped contained in the report of the State Electricity Commission to the Government. This will allow a full assessment of the present experiment in Geelong to be made.

"Before any decision is made we request that a public inquiry be made into the most suitable form of transport to operate in Ballarat under the control of a public authority."

Dealing with the request contained in the first paragraph of the petition, I would point out that already the Premier of Victoria (Hon. H. E. Bolte, M.L.A.) has announced publicly, on behalf of the Government, that the Government was not considering the closing of the Ballarat tramway service. This decision was announced some months ago and, in view of this, the request contained in the first paragraph of the petition would appear to have been rendered unnecessary.

Dealing next with the request in the petition for a public inquiry, I desire to inform you that careful consideration has been given to this aspect, but it is not proposed at the present time to institute any public inquiry on the lines suggested in the petition.

Yours sincerely,

(SIGNED) G. O. REID

Minister of
Electrical Undertakings.

Hon. J. J. Jones, M.L.C.,
Parliament House,
MELBOURNE. C.1.

GOR:JS.