

WATTRAIN

30th May 2019

To whom it may concern.

The Future of Newport Railway Workshop - Melbourne Australia

WATTRAIN notes the Victorian State Government policy imperative that will see heritage rail activities removed from the Newport precinct and believes the policy will result in the cessation of main line heritage operations. WATTRAIN believes the policy to be in error.

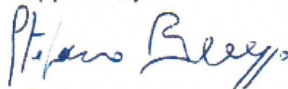
WATTRAIN understands the well-equipped workshops, built in 1889, are one of the last remaining railway workshops in the world still used, over 130 years later, for the repair and maintenance of steam locomotives and carriages. WATTRAIN considers the precinct at Newport is of great heritage significance and is a possible World Heritage site.

WATTRAIN encourages the Victorian State Government to capitalise on the very significant rail heritage at Newport by quickly establishing a Rail Heritage Precinct that includes:

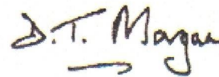
- An Operating Workshop Museum based around the existing rail heritage workshop in West Block that is a maintenance and operational base for heritage rail.
- A Rail Skills Trade Training Centre co-located in West Block as part of the Operating Workshop Museum, established in partnership with the Technical and Further Education sector and the unions, designed to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth in the Western suburbs of Melbourne.
- Following consultation with the Australian Railway Historical Society (ARHS Victorian Division), relocation of the Railway Museum from Williamstown into a refurbished East Block in the precinct.

WATTRAIN believes that Newport has the potential to be a world class rail heritage precinct similar to the York Railway Museum in the United Kingdom.

The Victorian State Government is encouraged to act quickly to realise the opportunity.



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