



Australian Railway Historical Society
(Australian Capital Territory Division) Incorporated

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Open letter of support for the NSW Rail Transport Museum.

I would like to offer our open and public support for the NSW Rail Transport Museum, this action has been taken in light of misinformation surrounding the return of locomotive 3801 to the RTM at the conclusion of its lease agreement.

The ARHS ACT has had a long and successful relationship with the NSW RTM in the operation, restoration and maintenance of heritage items of rolling stock in both the care and custody of each group.

There has been active sharing of equipment and parts in a behind the scenes relationship to economically sustain the continued operation for what is becoming a more difficult part of Australia's and New South Wales heritage to maintain and keep in a safe operating condition.

The RTM is nearing completion of the rebuilding of steam locomotive 3016 for the Society, which it was contracted to do starting in November 2004, this project saw the locomotive arrive at the Thirlmere workshop in numerous parts with the boiler dismantled and on a flat wagon. Over the past 18 months the locomotive has been returned to its former glory and will return to full mainline operation in March 2007 and become the prominent work horse for our own steam hauled heritage trains in southern NSW and the Canberra region. The ARHS ACT has invested \$90,000 with the RTM on this project, there is no more direct way to show confidence than to commit to a large long term project such as this.

During the second half of 2006 and going into 2007, we have agreed we will be seeking opportunities for both groups to work together to bring rail heritage 'out of the shed' for special public events in a long term and sustainable way.

For and on behalf of,
AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (ACT DIVISION) INC.



BRUCE BLAIN
PRESIDENT