

Peterborough Miniature Railway Association Incorporated

Business Development Plan

This document is a Business Development Plan for the building, operations and desired outcomes for the Peterborough Miniature Railway Association Incorporated, and also called PMRA for the duration of this document.

The Aims of the PMRA is to build and operate a Miniature Railway on 7.25 and 5 inch dual gauge rail line for the enjoyment of the community. To achieve this end we need to secure a suitable location that will allow us to construct an interesting plan that patrons will enjoy.

The Objects of the PMRA is to promote the attraction and sell rides to patrons to allow the PMRA to expand into a worthy tourist attraction for Peterborough. PMRA also hope to attract likeminded Modellers to visit and display their models.

The Process requires the PMRA to seek a suitable location, secure a lease/ownership agreement to allow us long term tenure for our project. This project will not be something that can be moved in a short term so a long term agreement is essential.

To date the PMRA have formed the above Incorporated Association, opened a bank account with Bank SA and currently sell sponsored metres of track to the public to raise funds for the project.

PMRA need to secure land Tenure which will allow it to apply for suitable Grant Funding to proceed with the project. Once established advertising opportunities will be sold on a yearly basis.

As PMRA get closer to requiring Public Liability it will affiliate with the Australian Association of Live Steamers, AALS for short, who cover all insurances and Codes of Practice for building, operations and training.

The Land that has been suggested by the Peterborough and District Council is known as RV1 and PMRA are happy to negotiate an agreement with Council.

This allotment of Land is adjacent to the Main Street of Peterborough with close proximity to Steamtown, free RV Parking and other car park locations.

The land agreement would need to be long term, 20 years, with option to extend.

Will need to be financially viable for the association.

Will need to allow us to operate passenger carrying train rides for the general public.

PMRA Members and authorised people as required will require unlimited access to the area to carry out building, maintenance and training programs.

Soil sampling was conducted on site and the results published in the April Informer.

Water and Electricity will need to be available to the area with toilets for patron usage on site or nearby.

The PMRA in return will keep the area neat and tidy and will carry out strategic plantings of trees and shrubs to beautify the area.

The Assets that PMRA are looking to build will include an initial approximate 445 metre loop of railway (Stage One) on the land known as RV1 which PMRA would like to be able to expand (Stage Two) northward from the western end to include a 645 metre loop past the reservoir and SARI Oval as funds allow it to expand. The RV1 (Stage One) loop will also incorporate three bridges and a tunnel option, the western end of this loop would pass through the wooded section adjacent to the SARI Oval for an added scenic ride. This area would also include the junction of the extension loop (Stage Two) as it comes back to the Station.

A Railway Station is planned for the RV1 site; this will be the ticket office and refreshment shop with a meeting/briefing room. This building possibly designed along the lines of the original Peterborough Railway Station.

A Train Storage Shed is also planned for RV1 and if this could be based on a Roundhouse Plan would allow it to fit in well with Peterborough's history.

The Track will consist of 25mm by 12mm flat bar sitting on its narrow edge for rail and welded in gauge to a 25mm by 5mm spreader bar on 125mm centre spacing which will be screwed to 40mm by 40mm recycled plastic sleepers for a completed rail system. This system has been quoted to around \$30 per metre for material and will be assembled by volunteer labour.

The Outcomes that PMRA wish to achieve is to create an enjoyable attraction that patrons will spread the word about a new attraction for Peterborough. We envisage running a couple of sessions per month plus booked occasions such as railway themed birthday parties and promotion days. Run times planned would be 1- 5pm Sundays in the cooler months with 5-9pm Saturdays in the warmer months.

There will be avenues where Training Organisations may be able to assist in some of the building structures which would generate experience for persons interested in some of the trades required. If PMRA can keep costings to material alone with volunteer or supplied labour being used to assemble structures and rail it would be a very efficient use of funds.

PMRA envisage that it will need to purchase at least one Locomotive plus a couple of passenger wagons. There are Members in the local district that have shown an interest in building their own locomotive so this should allow a variety of trains to run on a run day. This appears to be how most other Clubs operate.

Prepared by Ray Hotchin, PMRA Secretary.

