

Humphrey Pump - Uncertain Future for the Museum

Following the gas leak incident in May 2012, SA Water issued a DO NOT RUN order for the Humphrey Pump pending investigations into the cause of the leak and the design and costing of remediation works.

A preliminary assessment conducted by SA Water estimated that significant expenditure is required to bring the Pump and Museum to an acceptable standard. Following an initial assessment, SA Water indicated it would be unable to commit to the capital upgrade required for the Pump and associated infrastructure or to subsidise the ongoing operation of the Museum.

This preliminary estimate of the costs associated with decommissioning the Pump and ensuring that the Museum is safe for use are in the range of \$215,000-\$300,000.

The Cobdogla Steam Friends and the Barmera National Trust subsequently appointed a sub committee which prepared a submission to SA Water outlining the history of the museum and the necessity of SA Water continuing funding to the Museum.

In addition, letters were written to the C.E.O of SA Water, Mr Ringham, and to Minister I. Hunter asking that this decision be reversed.

Minister Hunter replied that the decision stands, although SA Water is prepared to consider transferring the assets to another party on the basis that they accept responsibility for ongoing maintenance and operation of the Pump and Museum.

The sub committee considers that the cost estimates given by SA Water are too vague and a request to them to give a break down of the estimates has so far been unanswered. There is no indication from SA Water at this stage what works were covered in the estimate.

The Cobdogla Steam Friends and Barmera National Trust have prepared a Petition to Parliament with the following request.

“The following petitioners request that your Honourable House will urge the State Government to take immediate action to have SA Water continue to own and support the Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum whilst allocating the necessary funds to facilitate the ongoing operation of the Humphrey Pump and Museum and to enable current and future generations to appreciate the State's water heritage.”

The Cobdogla Steam Friends and Barmera National Trust are seeking your support in their endeavour to have SA Water continue their previous funding arrangements for the Cobdogla Irrigation & Steam Museum.

If you are able to support the Cobdogla Steam Friends and Barmera National Trust by signing our petition, and also having your friends, family etc do so, then please reply promptly to this communication. A petition will be sent to you, which must then be returned by hand delivery or by mail (P.O. Box 535 Cobdogla S.A. 5346) by Friday, February 27th. 2015.

Thanking you for your support,

The Cobdogla Steam Friends Society Inc.

The Barmera Branch of the National Trust.

Replies to: enquiries@cobdoglasteammuseum.com.au

or Denis 04 1788 3353

A copy of our Petition is attached to this webpage

The rules for petitions are quite specific and if the rules are not followed, the petition or parts thereof may be rejected.

Please print at least page 1 and page 2 of the attached copy and staple the pages together.

Should you require more spaces for signatures, extra copies of page 3 may be added to the first two pages.

Signatures must be in ink, and if the signature is not legible, then please print the name as well.

Addresses must be residential or street addresses. Post Office boxes addresses will be rejected.

Use more than one line for the address if required.

Once you have gathered signatures, please post the petition, by no later than Friday 27th February 2015, to

Cobdogla Steam Friends Society Inc

P.O. Box 535

COBDOGLA S.A. 5346

Alternatively, petitions may be hand delivered to any Riverland member of the Cobdogla Steam Friends or the Barmera Branch of the National Trust by Sunday 1st March. Members will be at the museum on Sunday 1st March to receive petitions.

Please return the petitions even if there is only one signature on it. Every one will help.

Unfortunately, electronic replies are not acceptable.

Your interest and support is appreciated.

thank you,

Cobdogla Steam Friends Society Inc

Barmera Branch of the National Trust