

Tim Whetstone MP

Member for Chaffey

Thursday 26 March 2015

Strong community voice on future of historic pump

A petition with almost 6000 signatures was yesterday presented to Parliament calling on the State Government to secure the long term future of the Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum and the one-of-a-kind Humphrey Pump.

Following a community campaign raising concerns about future State Government funding to the museum and pump, SA Water has confirmed its ongoing financial support for the museum.

However, SA Water has refused to provide funds to re-commission the Humphrey Pump after it was closed due to a gas leak in 2012.

Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone, who presented the petition with almost 6000 signatures to State Parliament, said community pressure had already been successful in changing the attitude of the Minister for Water.

“By presenting the petition to State Parliament, almost 6000 people are on record showing their support for the long term future of the museum and Humphrey Pump,” Mr Whetstone said.

“The museum, which is run by volunteers as part of the Cobdogla Steam Friends Society, faced an uncertain future following comments by the Minister that SA Water could no longer subsidise the operation of the popular tourism attraction.

“While SA Water has stated that operational funding will continue for the museum, I will continue to work closely with the community to secure a long term future for the museum and the pump.

“The museum's star attraction the Humphrey Pump, the only operational pump of its kind in the world, now faces an uphill battle to operate again but the community is prepared to fight for its future.”

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