



IMPORTANT! TO ALL STEAM IN ACTION MEMBERS

03 April 2008

We have been tasked by very senior management at Transnet in South Africa to produce a white paper which provides them with thoughts, ideas and guidelines as to how they might approach the whole question of Railway Heritage, Steam etc. in South Africa in the future. We are advised that there is a new pro Heritage consciousness developing in the upper echelons of this important organisation.

Many SIA members, both resident in South Africa and overseas, have their own thoughts on these matters. It is important that the views of SIA members be included in the submission and in order for us to put together a comprehensive document we would appreciate SIA members giving this matter some thought and directing e-mails to us along the following lines:

1. What would be the ultimate vision for South Africa's National Rail Heritage and Tourism programme, both 3'6" and 2-ft Narrow Gauge?
2. What lessons have been learnt overseas, both in terms of how it should be done and in some cases, such as the sudden closure of the Enfield Depot in NSW Australia, how it should not be done?
3. Private/public railway Heritage partnerships are working overseas, how and why do they work?
4. Why it is important that South Africa should take this issue seriously. It affects job creation, tourism development, forex earnings, skills development and above all would enhance "Brand South Africa". It would also show that South Africa is a country interested in preserving its rich Heritage.

These are just some of the thoughts that might occur to you but we would like concrete suggestions, ideas and even anecdotes to support our forthcoming argument.

Please direct your responses to Joanne West on email: joannewest@btinternet.com.

We look forward to your support.

Dave Richardson
Director
Steam in Action