



MEC ALAN WINDE TO MEET WITH TRANSNET TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE OUTENIQUA CHOO TJOE

Welcome to the first newsletter from Western Cape Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Alan Winde, who's on a quest to save our famous train. This newsletter is our response to your desire for information, and the vast number of communications that this office has received. Here's what Minister Winde had to say:

"This Friday (10 July), I will meet with the Acting group CEO of Transnet, Mr Chris Wells to discuss the future of the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe.

The meeting will occur following months of speculation over whether Transnet will be shutting down Africa's last scheduled steam train, and a major tourist icon of the Southern Cape, for good.

I am of the strong opinion that this icon needs to be preserved. As such, I will do everything in my power to ensure that it operates again. Tomorrow, I will discuss possible mechanisms for its survival with Mr Wells, after which time I hope to garner expressions of interest from business persons and the community affected by the train's running.

I am optimistic that the public will come to the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe's rescue. Since it closed down last week, I have had dozens of people contact me to express their support for the train's continued operations, and their desire to play a part its survival. The provincial government is very willing to play any role necessary to ensure the successful reinstatement of this attraction. More news to follow soon!"

Please call at 021 483 3531, or e-mail finmin@pgwc.gov.za, to give your input on how we can save the train.

