



20 October 2020

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council Committee Office  
Parliament House  
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*MATTHEW.*

Dear ~~Chairman~~,

**RE: PETITION NO. 163 - MIDLAND RAILWAY WORKSHOPS**

I refer to your letter of 15 October 2020 concerning the above.

The City of Swan and Development WA have discussed the handover of assets from the Railway Workshops Precinct to the City of Swan.

At an Ordinary Meeting of Council on 23 September 2020 Council resolved not to purchase nor accept the handover of buildings (Timekeepers Office, Boiler House, Element Shop, Nurses Post, Power House, Pattern Shop and Pattern Store) in the Railway Workshops Precinct.

The recommendation was made after a request was considered by Council to use the buildings for community groups such as the Machinery Preservation Society, Bicycles for Humanity and Midland Mens Shed. As a result, the land is still under State Government ownership.

Please be advised that a proposal to establish a museum was first raised in 2012 and was the subject of a letter to the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority. A copy of their response is attached and the matter was not proceeded with at that time.

Please be aware there are two such museums in close proximity to the Midland Workshops. The West Australian Railway Transport Museum is located in Railway Parade, Bassendean and the Bennett Brook Railway and the Revolutions Transport Museum currently operate within Whiteman Park.

A local resident, Mr Matthew Pavlinovich, has set up the Midland and Districts Historical Society Inc. This group has a large collection of historical photographs and are looking to exhibit somewhere in the Midland area. This group is very active in the Midland area.

The City is aware of past requests from community groups to set up a Museum in the buildings; however, there is no firm proposal nor incorporated group currently in existence who have actively pursued this matter with the City or Development WA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Foley', written in a cursive style.

M J Foley  
**Chief Executive Officer**



3 July 2012

Mr M J Foley  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Swan  
PO Box 196  
MIDLAND WA 6936

Our Ref: PD0500-15  
Your Ref:

Dear Mike

**RAILWAY MUSEUM**

In response to your letter of 11 June 2012 regarding evaluating the feasibility of incorporating a railway museum within the Midland Workshops, I advise that previous such investigations were undertaken in 2004 by Peter Farr Consultant Australia Pty Ltd (report reviewed and summarised by third party Nichol Business Development); and in 2008 by Forrest Cultural Consulting (report third party reviewed and summarised by Sanmor Consulting).

Based upon the results of these previous studies, it has been determined such a facility is not viable to be established. This decision extends to requests relating to relocation of the Town of Bassendean Railway Museum to the Workshops.

To ensure the former life of the Railway Workshops is recognized, a Workshops Interpretation Plan is being finalized and will continue to be rolled out as development proceeds. The new vision for the Workshops sees it as a thriving mixed use hub, bringing a sense of the former vitality back to the site.

As part of the disposal strategy agreed with the Heritage Council of Western Australia, the Rail Heritage Society has been offered the opportunity to select items from the surplus machinery and equipment to assist their operations.

Yours sincerely

**Kieran Kinsella**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**CITY OF SWAN**

- 6 JUL 2012