



# LACHLAN VALLEY RAILWAY

Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-Operative Limited

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## **COWRA TO DEMONDRILLE LINE CLOSURE**

On Monday 17 August we were informed by telephone that the line between Cowra and Demondrille (near Harden) will be classified as “Non Operational” from Tuesday 1 September for an indefinite period. This effectively gave us 10 days notice of the closure.

We had 4 trains programmed for September and they are on hold at the moment.

2 steam locomotives and 3 carriages are currently in Sydney.

We have 6 carriages, 4 diesel locomotives, 4 freight wagons and 3 CPH railmotors at Cowra that we can not afford to have locked in. Numerous inquiries have been made to find alternate stabling facilities for these items and hopefully it will not come to that.

Negotiations for a “Licence Agreement” for the LVR to maintain and control the 102 Km section of track have started with ARTC acting as agents for the Rail Infrastructure Corporation. This process is reasonably simple but becoming the infrastructure manager for the rail line will require changes to our Safety Managements Systems and approval from ITSRR. This process will probably take a number of months.

We have also started talking to ARTC about the possibility of having them continue the necessary track inspections, at our expense, to avoid closing the line and enable us to have continuous access while the licence agreement is being worked on. We believe that it will be easier to keep the line operational than to have it close and then reopen again in several months time.

The idea of leasing the line was first raised with ARTC, who then directed us to the Rail Infrastructure Corporation, in December 2008, about a month after the government first announced its intention to examine the possibility of closing a number of rural branch lines, including Cowra to Demondrille. We also expressed an interest in the possibility of leasing some non-operational lines including Cowra to Blayney.

Gavin Knowles  
Secretary/Treasurer