

ESKBANK

RAIL HERITAGE
CENTRE

Eskbank Railway Station
Inch Street

PO BOX 350
LITHGOW NSW 2790

Mr Roger Bailey
General Manager
Lithgow City Council
PO Box 19
Lithgow NSW 2790

23rd October 2012

Dear Sir

I refer to our on going discussions regarding Council representation on the Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre committee to oversee the management and development of this key project which in time will be a very important key to Lithgow's tourist infrastructure.

COC Limited is registered with ASIC as community based not for Profit Company, Limited by Guarantee and is chartered with preserving and promoting Lithgow's unique rail and industrial heritage. At the present time the organization is tasked with spearheading the ongoing development of both the Eskbank Rail Heritage Precinct and the Wolgan Valley Railway Walking and Cycling Track.

In 2010, COC Limited registered the Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre (ERHC) as a business unit to promote and further develop the Eskbank Precinct. Although the area has been under license from Railcorp since 1996, we have spent almost \$700k through grants on site clearing, drainage and rail infrastructure installation. The funding for this work was made available through the Centenary of Federation Scheme in 2001 under a joint application made between ourselves and Lithgow City Council. As a result, the 3 kilometre rail link between a number of heritage sites was completed including the installation of passenger platforms at Lithgow State Mine, Blast Furnace Park, Lake Pillans and the Eskbank Goods Shed.

ERHC has for a number of years been negotiating with Railcorp and the Office of Rail Heritage for funding to restore the station buildings without much success. As you would be aware Council also took an interest in the inactivity and agreed to become a signatory to a Custodial Management Agreement over the area in an attempt to secure funding for its restoration.

The Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre has been duly registered by COC Limited as a business name and recognised by the Australian Taxation Office as a museum, its purpose is to showcase Lithgow's unique rail history.

A Business Unit of COC Limited
Web: www.eskbankrailheritage.com.au
E-mail: inquiries@eskbankrailheritage.com.au

As COC and Council will in effect be partners in the restoration, preservation and use of the Eskbank precinct in the interests of our local community, it would seem logical that Council has representation on the committee for the purpose of overseeing the development.

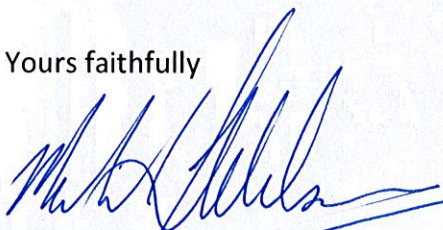
The ERHC committee comprises of four persons, three being directors of COC and our heritage officer. It is envisaged that if Council was of a mind to have two representatives, perhaps a councillor and a senior council officer it would be well placed to to have a role in shaping this important site.

As has previously been discussed, there will be no financial burden on Council with this project as we understand from meetings with representatives of the ORH there is funding available, and the direct supervision of the work and use will be the responsibility of COC Limited.

We therefore request that Council consider the appointment of a Councillor to represent Council on this committee with an option to have a senior council officer also in attendance. In terms of meeting frequency we expect it to meet bi monthly at this stage.

We thank you for your continued interest and support of this valuable community project and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully



(Michael J Wilson)
Chairman
Eskbank Rail Heritage Centre
COC Limited