



SteamRanger's Heritage - an insight into our past

BACKGROUND

AN decided to close the Victor Harbor line as a public railway in March 1984

This resulted in significant criticism and resulted in the appointment in October 1984 of an independent arbitrator, Mr R.J. Pascoe, a former WA Railways Commissioner to review the decision

This article summarises his decision.

RAIL REPORT - VICTOR HARBOR LINE

ARHS Recorder Vol 22 No 4 January 1985 pg 53

Two well-attended public meetings were held by the Arbitrator, Mr. Pascoe, concerning the future of the Victor Harbor rail line.

Despite the strength of the submissions favouring the retention of the line and services the report from Mr. Pascoe stated that AN could terminate passenger rail services between Adelaide and Victor Harbor immediately and close the section of the line between Strathalbyn and Victor Harbor on or after 1st November 1986, the States' sesquicentenary year.

Giving the reason for the 1986 date the arbitrator said that it seemed reasonable that a period of time should be allowed during which the interested parties could give further consideration to the line, or part of it, being used by some organisation other than AN for the purpose of running a tourist railway.

The ARHS is willing to run such trains with the support of the SA Government and a decision from that source is eagerly awaited