



WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARTY

CHARLES SMITH MLC

MEMBER FOR EAST METRO

Putting Western Australians First

MEDIA RELEASE

Smith pushes hills' railway restoration as state election pledge

02 June 2020

Western Australia Party upper house MP Charles Smith this week launched a campaign to restore the Kalamunda Zig Zag Railway to revitalise the Perth hills economically and historically.

Retired engineer John Edmonds devised the restoration plan in 2018 detailing how to turn worn infrastructure into a tourism attraction showcasing Kalamunda's steam train and working railway history at a reasonable cost.

Mr Smith raised the prospect in Parliament last year and said he will take it to the state election next year.

"WA has seen a swathe of economic issues with local businesses going under and unemployment skyrocketing particularly for our youth demographic.

"The recent COVID-19 disaster will only see this dire situation worsen.

"Reviving the Zig Zag Railway is a viable strategy to turn a run-down historical monument into a thriving tourist attraction injecting much needed funds to the Perth hills," said Mr Smith.

According to Mr Smith, with a viable plan complete and the infrastructure already laid the railway just requires an upgrade.

"Most of the work is already done; it would be a shame not to capitalise on that.

"Much of WA's working and pioneering history so often gets whitewashed by mainstream political parties and it's a pity because Kalamunda is an outstanding area of natural beauty that must be showcased to visitors."

The Western Australia Party have a solid track record in preserving historical sites with the most recent being the Darling Range Hotel.

Mr Smith and Mr Edmonds invite the public to have their say and invite interest from possible investors.

ENDS

Media contact:
Haylee Ruwaard
0418 916 444

Suite 13, 9 the Avenue Midland WA 6056

charles.smith@mp.wa.gov.au

www.charlessmithmlc.com