



South Australian Regional Rail Alliance

*getting Regional SA
back on track!*

CAN YOU PICK THE DIFFERENCE?

What do these two have in common?



CLUES!

1. *They're both wrecks*
2. *They both reside at Port Adelaide*
3. *Both have to be moved to make way for developers' dreams*
4. *They're both historic (one with a more contemporary connection to South Australians)*
5. *The State doesn't want to know about either of them*

Wreck 1 is called 'The world's oldest surviving Clipper Ship'....Wreck 2 is "South Australia's only surviving BlueBird train set'.

We at SARRA are more concerned about wreck 2 than wreck 1 - but we sympathise with supporters of wreck 1 in their efforts to find a permanent 'home' for it, move as it must (like wreck 2) to satisfy someone's desire to throw up boxes of tacky-tacky on the Port Adelaide wharves in the hope that trendies will travel by train and want to live there... *Good luck with getting people to live in Port Apartments! That's already failed further down the Port River swamp!*

Both wrecks are in private ownership (wreck 1 held by a NFP organisation) - wreck 2 in the hands of a very definitely 'for-profit' owner.

Both 'owners' are hoping the State will step in and provide them with the 'readies' to move their wrecks - wreck 1 owners with their hats out begging for help, the wreck 2 owner... *"Well, it's a tourist attraction! We'll all benefit from it, so the State must pay to move it....!"*

If the State was to contribute to the wrecks' move, it's more likely to support the NFP owner of wreck 1.

The owner of wreck 2 has been pressuring the State for money (not a small amount!) to move his wreck - either to the Barossa Valley, or, potentially to SteamRanger (which would also have to pay extra for the 'asset' by the way)*but in any event, taxpayer funding for either wreck is extremely unlikely.*

SARRA is also aware of a 'third party' interest in purchasing wreck 2 - but until they make their 'play' public, it is nothing more than well-meaning gossip. In any event, if this option was to come to fruition, it is certain that wreck 2 would move interstate....

Now....SARRA is unaware of the time-frame for the movement of wreck 1 - **but we do know that the movement of wreck 2 is well overdue, missing monthly 'move it or lose it' deadlines this year.**

BUT NOW TIME IS UP. SARRA believes wreck 2 MUST be moved by May 31 to make way for long-overdue works on the new Port Dock Railway Station, immediately east of the National Rail museum.

Why is the movement of wreck 2 so important? It was recently moved from NRM access lines (also needed for the new development) to tracks which served the old Jackett's Railway Station - land which also forms part of the new Port Dock development.

Thus wreck 2 is an increasing impediment to the development plans of the Port - and is an embarrassment to its current owner, and the State Government.

So the poker game is on - who will blink first? Will wreck 2's American owner double-down, hoping his political and bureaucratic opponents will throw in their hands and agree to meet movement costs?

Or will the State stand firm and not pay for wreck 2's movement, presumably to its owner's preferred option outside the Tanunda Railway Station? (...By the way, the Burghers of the Barossa frankly don't want wreck 2 in the region in its current condition. Like SARRA, they'd prefer **a brand-new tourist AND commuter train** - something more in keeping with the Valley's premier tourist and community image).

That being said, we here at SARRA are hearing strong rumours that wreck 2's owner, deep pockets as he has, is actively considering suing the State over the whole imbroglio (assuming the 'interstate option' falls over).

How successful that action might be is something for the Courts, but SARRA believes the State may not be up to the challenge, given its need to be rid of wreck 2 from its current location as quickly as possible - and the fact that it does not want to play the more risky - and very expensive - game of 'Legal Two-Up'.

Without wishing to over-use the gamblers' comparisons here, forgive us if we make one last observation: The fate of wreck 2 will be played out on the chess-board of private vs public interest. It will be interesting who gets to 'Check Mate' first.

Will the train be moved by its current deadline? Or will it be just a Pawn in a new political/legal chess game?

....Or might the Government put its foot down and just move wreck 2 to SIMS Scrap Metal? Might the Owner do that anyway, just to get what he can for the wreck?

Time will tell.....

In the meantime, we've put up a count-down on the SARRA website, counting down the time to (the latest) Wreck-2 D-DAY....or is that M-(Movement)-DAY?

Stay tuned for developments....!