

1904.  
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VICTORIA.

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# REPORT

FROM

## THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

ON THE QUESTION OF THE PROPOSED

## STRATHMERTON TO TOCUMWAL RAILWAY.

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*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 25th October, 1904.*

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RAILWAYS STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT No 3.—11674.



# STRATHMERTON TO TOCUMWAL RAILWAY.

## REPORT.

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS, to which the Legislative Assembly referred the question of the construction of a 5ft. 3in. gauge line of railway from Strathmerton to Tocumwal, has the honour to report as follows:—

1. The subject of railway communication to Tocumwal was referred as a general question to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly in December, 1901. On the 19th October, 1904, the Committee presented to the House its Report on that question. After dealing fully with the subject the Committee expressed the opinion that it was desirable to extend the Victorian railway system to Tocumwal by constructing a short line from Strathmerton, as the Victorian Railways Commissioners estimated that that railway would return a profit of £470 per annum after paying all working and maintenance expenses and interest on the cost of construction.

2. The Committee, therefore, recommends the construction of a railway from Strathmerton to Tocumwal along the route permanently surveyed, a distance of 10·4 miles, at a cost to Victoria not exceeding £33,000, including £5,115 for rolling-stock, the land required for the track of the railway on the Victorian side of the Murray to be handed over to the Railways Department free of charge. The Committee further recommends that the building of the line be undertaken forthwith, and, should the New South Wales Parliament not ratify the agreement entered into last year by the representatives of the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales, the terminal station of the railway be on the Victorian bank of the Murray, at the site of the Customs-house. The Committee also suggests that local railway rates be not charged on the proposed line.

3. The following extracts from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee show the divisions that took place during the consideration of the question referred to it:—

TUESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1904.

The Committee proceeded to consider the question of constructing a railway from Strathmerton to Tocumwal.

Mr. McBride moved, That the Committee recommends the construction of a 5ft. 3in. railway from Strathmerton to Tocumwal township, 10·4 miles in length, at a cost not exceeding £33,000, including £5,115 for rolling-stock, provided that those interested in the proposed railway hand over the land required for the track of the line to the Railways Department free of charge, and that local rates be not charged on goods and live stock carried over the line.

And, after debate—

Mr. Melville moved, as an amendment, That all the words after the word "Committee" be omitted with a view to insert in place thereof the following words:—"is unable to recommend the construction of a railway from Strathmerton to Tocumwal because the cost of the proposed line, as estimated by the Acting Engineer-in-Chief of the Victorian Railways, is excessive, and also because it is doubtful if the revenue estimated by the Victorian Railways Department will be received from the carriage of goods over the proposed line, owing to the New South Wales Railways Department having the power, under the Commonwealth Constitution Act, to further reduce the rate charged for the carriage of grain by rail from Finley to Sydney."

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the motion—put.  
Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.  
Mr. Bailes,  
Dr. Embling,  
Mr. McBride,  
Mr. Warde.

Noes, 1.  
Mr. Melville.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That Mr. McBride's motion be agreed to—put.  
Committee divided.

Ayes, 4.  
Mr. Bailes,  
Dr. Embling,  
Mr. McBride,  
Mr. Warde.

Noes, 1.  
Mr. Melville.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Graham, M.L.A., did not vote in either of these divisions, being precluded from doing so by the provisions of section 5 of Act No. 1350.

GEO. GRAHAM,  
Chairman.

Railways Standing Committee Room,  
State Parliament House,  
Melbourne, 25th October, 1904.