

RESOLUTION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FELL SOCIETY

At the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Fell Society Incorporated, held at the Fell Locomotive Museum on Sunday 3 November 2002, the following motion was carried:

MOVED by Brian Pearce and **SECONDED** by Graeme Jupp.

THAT “This Society states its opposition as policy to the reinstatement of a railway on the old Rimutaka railway route between Featherston and Upper Hutt”.

The following points were discussed and agreed upon by all members present.

The reasons for this policy are:

- The Society will NEVER entertain the idea of "Fell" locomotive H199 and "Fell brake-van F210 being reactivated for use on a railway across the Rimutakas. H199 is the property of the residents of Featherston and it is unlikely they would wish for such a drawcard to be removed from the town.
- The Society deplors the fact that significant damage would inevitably occur to the formation if a railway was reinstated. Embankments would have to be widened, cuttings opened out, bridges replaced and other structural and safety modifications introduced to permit joint usage of rail and pedestrian/cycle traffic. Other "necessary" features, such as a platform and railway station/cafe at Summit, would forever remove the authenticity of the area.
- The Society believes that the development of the Rimutaka Rail Trail, now a nationally significant historic area, is of paramount importance. Fell Society members wholeheartedly support the Wellington Regional Council's plans for improving the area and for the installation of increased signage and interpretation.
- The Society believes that the 30,000 present users of the Rimutaka Rail Trail will steadily increase as the area becomes more widely known and its history appreciated. Many thousands of people make repeated visits year after year, with many more visiting the area at least twice a year. The rail trail is a quiet, serene place ideal for all manner of recreational pursuits.