COBDOGLA IRRIGATION & STEAM MUSEUM PETITION

To the Honourable Members of the House of Assembly in Parliament assembled –

The Petition of the undersigned residents of Cobdogla and greater South Australia.

Title: Reinstate funding to maintain the Humphrey Pump and operation of the associated Irrigation and Steam Museum at Cobdogla.

Argument:

The Humphrey Pump located at the Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum, was recommissioned in 1986 as a major Jubilee 150 Project. The Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum which is built up around the Humphrey Pump installation, is operated by volunteers from the Cobdogla Steam Friends Society Inc. and the Barmera Branch of the National Trust of South Australia. The Government, through E&WS Department and SA Water have contributed modest financial support. The Humphrey Pump at Cobdogla was the only such machine installed in the Southern hemisphere, one of only two installations anywhere after the First World War. It is the only installation still capable of operating anywhere in the World – a unique, gas powered, internal combustion artefact of international engineering significance. The Pump is listed on the State and National Registers of Heritage Items and has received both National and International Heritage Awards. Following a gas leakage incident in May 2012, SA Water now refuses to meet capital funding for improved safety works for the Humphrey Pump, and to support continued operations of the Museum. It is an essential role of Government to preserve and present the State's heritage for posterity. In this case the duty should be discharged through the agency of SA Water, particularly with regard to an artefact of world engineering heritage.

Request:

The following petitioners request that your Honourable House will urge the State Government to take immediate action to have SA Water continue to own and support the Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum, whilst allocating the necessary funds to facilitate the ongoing operation of the Humphrey Pump and Museum and to enable current and future generations to appreciate the State's water heritage.

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Your petitioners therefore request that your Honourable House will urge the State Government to take immediate action to have SA Water continue to own and support the Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum, whilst allocating the necessary funds to facilitate the ongoing operation of the Humphrey Pump and Museum and to enable current and future generations to appreciate the State's water heritage.

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