



Mayor seeks support to restore steam tram

"We've got the chassis, we've got one seat and part of the engine — now we need community and business support for Rockhampton's Bicentennial steam tram restoration project."

That is the message from Rockhampton's Mayor, Ald Webber, who yesterday inspected the parts of what will be, by 1988, the only working Purrey steam tram in the world.

The coal-fired trams (pictured above) were unique to Rockhampton in Australia

and were the principal form of public transport in the city from 1909 to 1939.

Project co-ordinator and council bus depot manager Mr Doug Press said it was hoped the passenger trailer superstructure would be ready in a year.

"But if the project is to be a success, we have to get support," he said yesterday.

"We are asking individuals and business houses who wish to help the project in any way at all, to register their names at the city council office.

"One organisation may offer to make a fitting for the tram, another may offer to supply materials — we want to get the community involved as much as possible."

Any privately-owned parts of a tram were also welcomed.

"We want anything that has got something to do with the old trams.

"We feel that there must be a few of the old seats sitting under people's houses."

Ald Webber said the tram would be incorporated in the city's public transport system.



● Rockhampton Mayor Ald Webber sits on part of an old Purrey steam tram. The restoration of the tram to working order and its return to the city's public transport system are a bicentennial project