

Reiteration

□ In reply to Rod Burfoot re Purrey steam trams (TMB, 13/9/97) I reiterate that Rockhampton City Council Purrey trams did not run north of the Fitzroy River. Mr Burfoot's claim that this is untrue is contradicted by Judy Nicholson in Rockhampton's Puffing Billies (1988). There were no street-cars nor council tram services to and from the city and Lakes Creek or Parkhurst, but there were train services. I quote from Nicholson, page 21: "The Queensland Railways showed an interest in the Purrey cars for use as suburban trains to Lakes Creek. Tramcar No. 8 was borrowed in 1922 to test the scheme, and consequently the Railways ordered Purrey equipment to construct 'tram train' cars. Two steam rail cars operated the Lakes Creek and Parkhurst railway services until 1930 when buses took over".

This confirms my claim that no city council tram operated on streets north of the river. The 'tram train' ran on normal railway lines as a suburban train service. It was owned and operated by Queensland Railways, not the Rockhampton City Council.

From a parochial point of view, I consider that the Purrey tram should be kept where it is, in a museum environment, reflecting the type of transport we had in the city in the horse and buggy days and in the same spirit as Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's aircraft is retained in a suitable building at the Brisbane airport as a national reminder of its achievements.

Les Duthie,
Rockhampton.

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