



Parks & Playgrounds MOVEMENT Inc.

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Planning for wise leisure

Thursday, 15 June 2000

Mr. Paul Anderson
General Manager
The Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd
PO Box 86A
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Dear Mr Anderson,

Newcastle Iron and Steelmaking BHP Theme Park (Proposed)

Parks and Playgrounds Movement is anxious that the BHP Newcastle redundant iron and steelmaking plant is not completely demolished and that some of the structures can be protected and reclaimed for reuse for the establishment of a **Newcastle Iron and Steelmaking BHP Theme Park**. The Theme Park would feature the iron and steelmaking structures within a discrete area encompassed by No. 4 Blast Furnace, the Gas Holders and the remnants of the Open Hearth furnace in the steelmaking Department.

It is envisaged that the essential structures could be retained together with those significant items of infrastructure that can be conserved to heighten the interpretative experience of the site.

Ultimately the Theme Park would be financially self supporting through the leasing of commercial space within the Theme Park.

The essential features to be included in the Iron and Steelmaking BHP Theme Park are:

- * Gas Holders and a Blast Furnace with its adjacent stoves and Blower House,
- * The Open Hearth Furnace and Charging Equipment, Teeming Ladles, Ingot Moulds and Bogie Car.
- * Existing railway lines, a Torpedo Ladle Car and Slag Ladle Car.

The features together with overhead pipes and other structures must be systematically identified and isolated in situ from any other site clearance that may be necessary.

It is essential that the structures identified within the discrete area proposed are considered within an integrated conceptual plan for the new developments proposed by the company and that they recognise and interpret the great contribution the BHP company has made to Australia.

Steelmaking on the Newcastle site has been part of the great sweep of world history flowing from the Industrial Revolution which reached the Hunter Region with the establishment of the convict settlement of Newcastle to mine coal and cut cedar.

The BHP Theme Park is an imaginative proposal that would provide the matrix for arts, drama and commercial activity and be an important tourist attraction, a fun place and an active reminder of the immense contribution BHP has made to the industrial heritage of Newcastle.

We earnestly commend the concept to you and we enclose our letter sent to the Newcastle Council.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Lithgow
Parks and Playgrounds Movement

