



Miniature Railway, Walka Water Works

Expressions of interest for user groups

Introducing

Miniature Railway, Walka Water Works, Oakhampton Heights, Maitland.

Maitland City Council is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from commercial operators, community groups, or individuals that are interested in operating the miniature railway at the historic Walka Water Works, Oakhampton Heights, Maitland.

Built in 1885, Walka Water Works is one of the largest and most intact 19th century industrial complexes in the Hunter Valley. The former water works provided the people of the Lower Hunter Valley with their first permanent water supply from 1887 until 1923. It was decommissioned in 1931, before being resurrected in 1951 by the Electricity Commission as a temporary power station during the post-war electricity shortages. Since 1978 the site has been decommissioned and the power station dismantled. After opening to the public in 1984, Walka Water Works has become an icon of Maitland's rich history, providing a popular picnic and recreation area for all.

About the railway

The Walka Miniature Railway track runs alongside the eastern side of Walka lagoon and through native bushland. Running for approximately 1.5km each way, the Walka railway is a unique way to experience the historical site. Enjoyed by generations of adults and children alike, the Walka railway is a staple of Maitland history.

Currently, the railway is not operational. Maitland City Council is undertaking a comprehensive review of Walka Water Works which will provide a full picture of expenditure required at the site alongside prioritisation. Maitland City Council has not committed to funding the railway works in isolation; however, once an operator has been secured and a decision has been made to re-open the railway via a council resolution, these works would be completed.



Management and lease model

Maitland City Council will be responsible for asset and railway infrastructure costs including future repairs and upgrades to the railway track. The ownership of any engines and carriages will remain with Maitland City Council. Operating costs will be the responsibility of the future user, with any profits being reinvested in the assets. On close of the EOI period, Council will consider all submissions on their own merit and in accordance with the vision for the venue, community and mandatory requirements detailed in this document.

Applicants are required to:

- Submit an introductory cover letter addressing the following mandatory requirements for the EOI.
- Who you are and some background information about you or your group

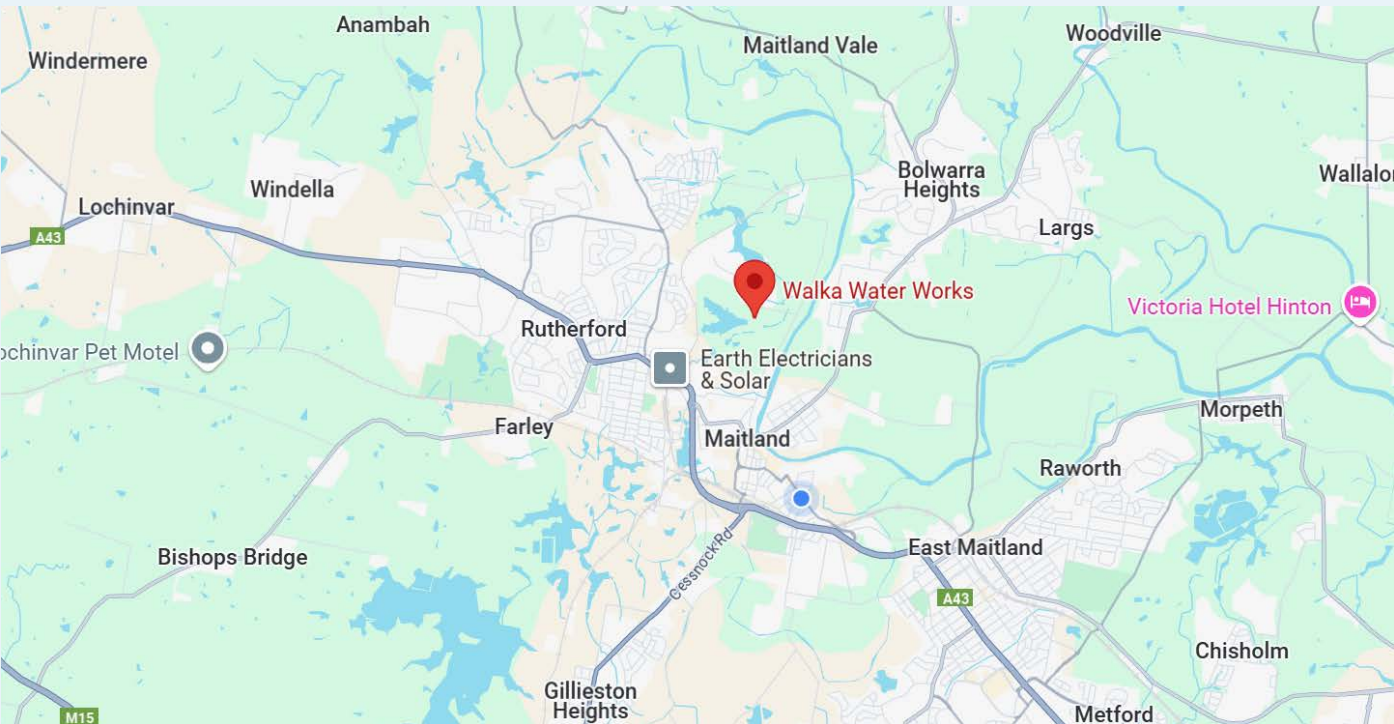
- Intended length of a lease to operate the train
- Any other information you deem relevant to your application

- Submit a completed application form.
- Submit copies of relevant public liability insurance or provide a guarantee that these will be in place prior to the commencement of the agreement.

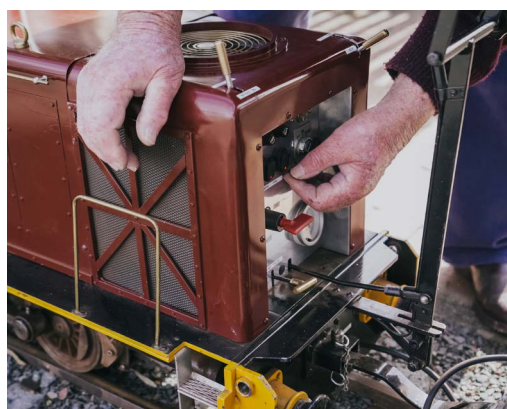
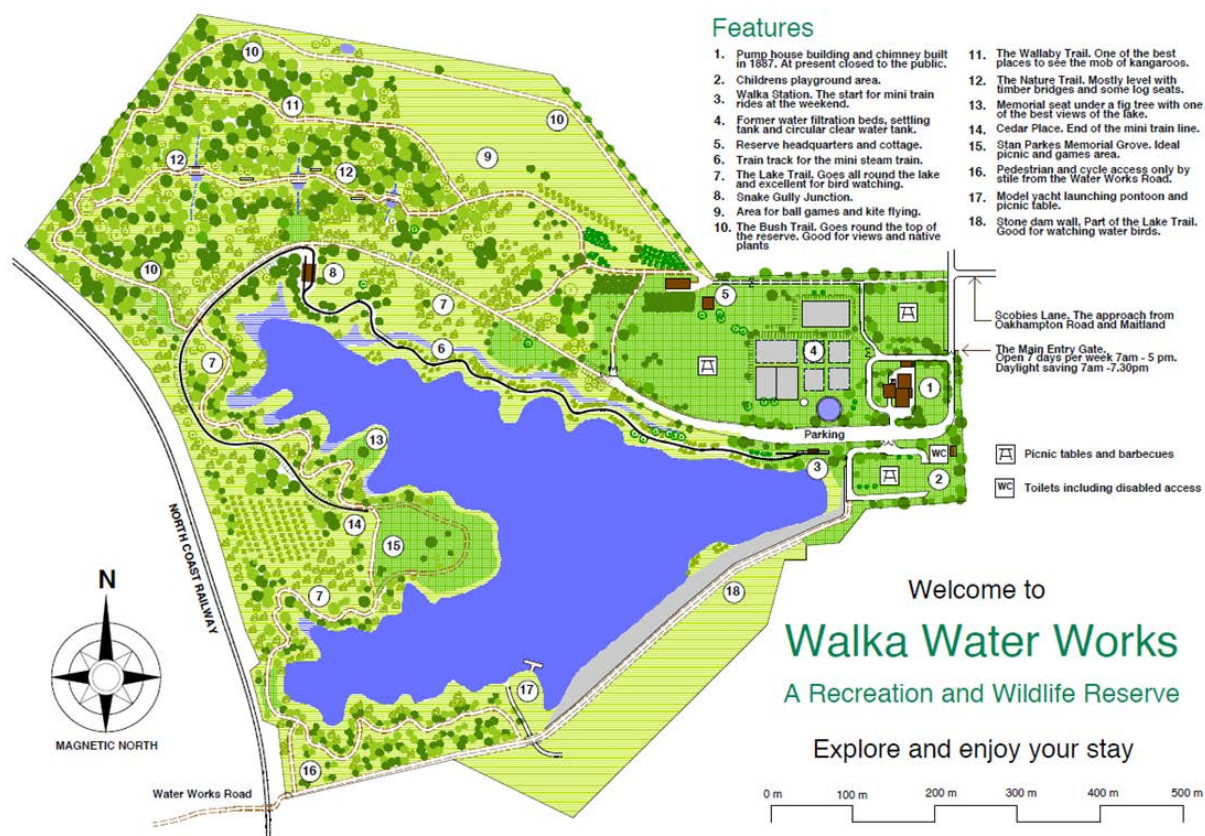
On close of the EOI period, Council will consider all submissions on their own merit and in accordance with the vision for the venue, community and mandatory requirements detailed in this document. Private inspections are available. Please contact property.tenders@maitland.nsw.gov.au to organise a time.

Location

South Willards Lane, Oakhampton Heights NSW 2320



Plan of facility



263 High Street, Maitland NSW 2320
property.tenders@maitland.nsw.gov.au
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