

# **MEDIA STATEMENT**

## **Arthur's Seat icon for sale**

Owner of the Arthur's Seat Chairlift has put this popular Mornington Peninsula tourist attraction on the market.

More than 100,000 people a year enjoy riding on the chairlift above the Parks Victoria owned Arthur's Seat nature reserve. It is one of the main reasons many of the visitors go to the Mornington Peninsula and has important flow-on effects for other tourism operators in the area. While the land is crown land, Arthur's Seat Scenic Chairlift Pty Ltd owns the Arthur's Seat Chairlift asset and has leasing arrangements with Parks Victoria.

The company has owned the ride for nearly 30 years and operated without incident until 2003. At that time an original design fault was found to have caused one of the pylons to collapse and all claimants were paid by the insurance company.

More than \$500,000 was spent upgrading the lift to a state of the art facility before it reopened in early 2004, so that the Australian public and overseas visitors could continue to enjoy the Arthur's Seat experience.

Since then there have been two other smaller incidents, neither of which have shown to be the fault of the operator. Managing Director Richard Hudson says the company is now working with WorkSafe Victoria to run tests on the lift to determine what went wrong, resolve any issues and ensure this popular facility can reopen before the main tourist season.

"After 27 years at Arthur's Seat, we feel it is time to move on," said Mr Hudson, who is now in his 70s. "I would like to thank the general public and government agencies for their support in the past and sincerely hope that potential purchasers will emerge with the desire and ability to continue to enhance the tradition of this most important Victorian Tourism icon."

Mr Hudson says he would rather take the lift down than give it away and the local shire is working with him to try to find a buyer.

"While we cannot reopen for business in the immediate future, we are hopeful WorkSafe will help us to resolve this matter soon.

"I would like to stress that we have no intention of operating the lift until we are totally satisfied we have identified the cause of the incident in May by running our own tests. In the interim we will work closely with any prospective buyers to ensure that everything is done to reopen the lift and give Mornington Peninsula back this important attraction," Mr Hudson said.

**ENDS**