

Lewisham Railway Viaduct

location Longport Street, Lewisham, Sydney.
owner State Rail Authority

the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**
location On brick bridge pier adjacent to Grosvenor Crescent and the displayed trusses.

The displayed trusses are an excellent example of American pin-jointed construction and pioneered the introduction of American bridges to NSW railways.

plaque text

Lewisham Railway Viaduct

This pair of trusses formed part of the railway viaduct over Long Cove Creek from 1886 to 1993. Designed by Max Thomson for the New South Wales Government Railways, they are pin-jointed trusses of the type developed in America by Squire Whipple that were widely used there. The method was tried only on this and three other bridges in New South Wales. The parallel bridges here (1892 and 1925) show the change to riveted trusses, then the welded plate web girder replacement spans.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the State Rail Authority, NSW, 1994.

Max Thomson

Max Thomson joined the Department of Public Works, NSW in 1879 and was a draftsman in the Tramways Section from 1880 to 1881. It seems he transferred to the Railways in 1882. There he worked under George Cowdery as a draftsman in the Existing Lines Branch until 1883 and as District Engineer in the same branch from 1884 to 1886. In 1887 he became Deputy Engineer and retired from that position in 1889.

