

Meadowbank Railway Bridge

location Over the Parramatta River between Concord and Meadowbank, Sydney, New South Wales.

owner State Rail Authority

the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**

location Plaque is yet to be permanently fixed.

plaque text

Meadowbank Railway Bridge

This was the eleventh and longest of the twelve lattice railway bridges erected in NSW between 1871 and 1887 under the direction of railway Engineer-in-Chief John Whitton. It was the second of two to have double tracks, was fabricated in England and erected by local contractor Amos Bros. in 1886.

Decommissioned in 1980, the bridge remained out of service for 20 years before becoming a cycle and pedestrian path in April 2000.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the State Rail Authority, NSW 2001



John Whitton (1819–1898)

Whitton served his apprenticeship in Britain. When being recruited as Engineer-in-Chief of the Railways of NSW, he was described as “a thoroughly practical engineer of considerable attainments, a gentleman of unquestionable principle and integrity”.

During Whitton’s term, the railways grew from 37km to 3494km of high-standard line. Whitton succeeded despite persistent opposition from politicians and others, who sought economies through low standards and outdated technology. Foreseeing problems different gauges would produce, Whitton advised the Government to convert NSW’s then 37km of track, to the gauge used by Victoria and South Australia. However, in this he was unsuccessful. Whitton retired in 1890.

