

Tas steam machines warning

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Organizers of Tasmania's largest steam engine event say they are struggling to keep the historic machines from being sold to overseas buyers.

An estimated 10,000 people attended SteamFest at Sheffield in north-west Tasmania's north west at the weekend. It continues today.

Steamfest organiser, Chris Martin, says while attendances continue to grow each year, the number of old machines in the state are shrinking.

"Steam equipment is disappearing to the UK," Mr Martin said.

"The prices that they're commanding in the UK are very high, so if we don't keep the movement alive here in Tasmania with regular events where people can show their traction engines and generally has a great time with them, the risk is that they will progressively disappear," he said.