



In the Wimmera region, a company financed by local farmers was formed in 1908 as the Wimmera Inland Freezing Company.

Mr David Bone of Nhill was appointed Chairman and twelve directors were elected. Tenders were called for construction of the works and for it to be ready for operation in September 1911. The first shipment of frozen meat left the works on 21 October 1911.

Four Richard Hornsby & Sons engines were sent from England. Two drove ammonia compressors, and the other two drove generators. Two engines came to Murtoa in 1910; the next one in 1911 and the last in 1914. Members of the Dunmunkle Sumpoilers Machinery Preservation Club now own and maintain these historic engines and an ammonia compressor.

Still on their original 1911 Wimmera Inland Freezing Works foundation, the Club now have the original generators operational. The massive engines are a sight to see as they slowly fire up and begin rotating their huge flywheels at a breathtaking 300rpm.

All engines run during the annual event of Murtoa's Big Weekend (first weekend in October).

