

# West Australian Railscene e-Mag

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Recently completed but not yet painted new ARG locomotive AC 4301 is still set up to undergo static load testing at United Group Rail Broadmeadow NSW works on April 26th. Photo Brad Coulter

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Storms in the Avon Valley on April 18th again effected signalling at Jumperkine in the evening with some signals blackouts. East of Northam in the central region the panel was lost about 1700 owing to lightning strikes and train working from Avon to Merredin was by proceed orders. Owing to the amount of damage caused by the lightning strike the Central Panel was still out on the 19th with proceed orders in force.

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SD70MACe locomotive 4347 the first locomotive of the nine locomotive order of 4647-4655 for BHPBIO together with a further BHPBIO SD70MACe unit was under test on EMD test track at London Ont. in Canada on April 18th. These locomotives are all nearing completion that will see them hauled to a port for shipping to Port Hedland in the near future. When these locomotives enter service BHPBIO will have a fleet of 55 SD70MACe working their lines out of Port Hedland.

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As part of a walk around Northbridge to get a first hand view of the areas problems the Premier Mr Barnett also walked around and through Perth Station 2205 on April 17th to see what it was like on Friday nights.

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With all the new iron ore wagons being delivered from China the older wagons AHMF, AHAF, AHAL and AHKF used on the Mt Gibson iron ore traffic at Geraldton have been withdrawn and are now stored on the old talc line at Three Springs. PM

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AC 4302 the first of the ARG locomotives painted is in erecting shed at United Group Rail Broadmeadow plant on April 20th next to Pacific National 92 class and QR electric 3730. Photo Leon Oberg

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Northam has long been a stop for transcontinental trains and even now every few weeks or so the Indian Pacific stops to board passengers as it did on April 22nd.

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With the completion of laying concrete sleepers from Pinjarra to Brunswick on South West line on April 6th concrete sleepers were laid on the south leg the triangle at Pinjarra from Pinjarra east to Pinjarra south on April 7th/8th following the tracklaying machine being turned on April 7th. The track machine then ran to Brunswick to complete the concrete sleeper replacement programme with the Brunswick East-Brunswick North section of the triangle at Brunswick being completed after Easter. RA212 hauling track machine and sleeper/rail train ran from Brunswick to old Bellevue yards on April 17th as 6S16, that saw three trains at flashbut- Bellevue yards in 30minutes in a place that often only sees that many trains in a week.

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Freight from Kalgoorlie 3426 on April 22nd had LZ3120, DC2206, 42211 with failed dead attached Q4019 & Q4004 while the return service 4025 that night had Q4012, LZ3120 with dead attached L3115 & 42211.

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Pacific National yard shunter 8039 was hauled out of Kewdale dead attached on 4PW4 behind NR120 & NR34 on April 22nd. 8112 has arrived and is now to be Kewdale shunter till 8039 returns.



First of the new ARG locomotives AC4301 as yet not painted out in the open at United Group Rail Broadmeadow plant undergoing static load testing on April 20th. Photo Leon Oberg



Q4005 recently returned from repair at EDI Rail Port Augusta runs a short 3171 shunter from Kwinana with Kalgoorlie loading under Spencer Road Bridge at Thornlie on April 21st. Photo Brendan Cherry

2512 & DAZ1905 working 4336 wheat train at Midland on evening of April 22nd suffered problems with DAZ1905 but crew was able to fix the fault and continue. Then at entrance to Abernathy Road tunnel 2512 failed but was able to get the train into Forrestfield yard where 2512 and DAZ1905 were detached and ran to loco. P2510 and D1562 with just released from workshop as remote unit were attached and ran 4336 to Kwinana CBH to unload, probably first time D1562 has run a wheat train.

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WestNet Rail that holds the lease over all the old Westrail tracks in WA in association with ARG the rail operator with support from WA Farmers Federation and Local Government Association have set up Grain on Rail <http://grainorail.com.au> . This is to lobby for support to keep grain on rail and for government to invest some \$400 on upgrading narrow gauge tracks. In the now the deregulated wheat export market this may prove difficult to achieve as road transport offers far more flexibility in these changed circumstances.

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LZ3105 ran 4163 light engine on April 22nd to SSRS/Gemco Rail yard Bellevue to collect and haul repaired LZ3103 back to Forrestfield following completion of repair by Gemco Rail.



DAZ1905, AB1503 & P2508 run 3335 empty wheat train through the southern suburb of Thornlie on its return run to one of extremities of the system at Beacon for loading on April 21st. Photo Brendan Cherry

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LZ3119 has stabled at Daniell on the Esperance line since April 15th after drawgear on #2 end failed, when it was the middle unit on a loaded ore train. Other than drawgear problem the locomotive is mechanically OK and was still stabled there on 22nd.

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AC4303 has been assembled and entered the paint shop at United Group Rail Broadmeadow NSW on April 17th to be painted. BC