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Three Rio Tinto General Electric Evos 8147, 8124 both in grey and red Tiger stripe livery with 8107 in original grey and yellow haul another empty towards Mt Tom Price on August 19th. Photo Jim Bisdee

The Pilbara region in the dry season [winter in southern Australia] is a popular tourist destination where people go to escape the cold in the south and explore the attractions of the area like large national parks and many look in awe as giant ore trains hold then up at level crossings. For many people the Pilbara is the Holy Grail for fishing, or for the national parks and for railfans the massive iron ore trains often hauled by US domestic model locomotives. Here in this starkly beautiful country run four separate heavy haul lines, south from Dampier original Hamersley Iron line to Tom Price now with number of branches to Brockman, Paraburdoo, Yandi, West Angelas or Hope Downs, Cape Lambert south to Deepdale on Robe River line, south from Port Hedland to Mt Newman line with branches to MAC on BHPB Iron Ore or to Yarrie east from Port Hedland on old the Mt Goldsworthy Mining line now BHPBIO line extended over the years.



8147, 8124 & 8107 run the short branch line on 19/8 to the mine at Tom Price a few more kilometres down the track for loading a cycle that commenced in 1966 when the mine and line opened. Photo Jim Bisdee



SD70MACe 4339 with ex BNSF4324 run a loaded iron ore train at Woodstock on 21/8. Photo Jim Bisdee



SD40's 3096 and 3097 behind 5656 and 5633 run empty ore train at Woodstock on 21/8. Photo Jim Bisdee



FMG 013 and 009 run loaded iron ore train to the port unloader at Boodarie on 22/8. Photo Jim Bisdee



FMG 015 as yard shunter at port shunts idler cars onto back of loaded train on loop 22/8. Photo Jim Bisdee



Just like mixed train withdrawn SD40's, old ore cars and ex CB&Q coach at Finucane Island 22/8. Photo JB



5634 runs the daily Yarrie ore train of new ore cars on old GML line at Port Hedland on 22/8. Photo Jim B



5654 under lights at Port Hedland yards on Newman fuel train about to depart at 1820 on 23/8. Photo Jim B



SD70MACe 4340 and ex BNSF4329 run empty ore train out of Port Hedland on 23/8. Photo Jim Bisdee



9429, 8137, 7095 & 9418 four locos, four different liveries, three different types with rarely seen CM40-8M 9418 on main line run empty Robe River ore train at 20.9km on Deepdale line on 24/8. Photo Jim Bisdee



7050 runs Rio Tinto empty fuel train from Tom Price into Parker Point at Dampier on 25/8. Photo Jim B



Withdrawn locomotives 9414, 9425, 9420, 9424, 9417, 5051, 5052 & 9410 stored 6 Mile 25/8. Photo Jim B



7050 in the attractive Pilbara Iron livery running light engine at Dampier Salt crossing 25/8. Photo Jim B



7076, 8106 & 7086 run a loaded ore train over the causeway at Dampier on 25/8. Photo Jim Bisdee

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