

West Australian Railscene e-Mag

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SPECIAL EDITION

REMEMBERING ENEABBA MINERAL SANDS TRAINS 1976--2010



P2509 runs final mineral sands train on an overcast evening just north of Walkaway on August 30th for one last time it runs south to Eneabba.

Photo Phil Melling

In February 1975 earthworks for the Dongara Eneabba commenced then in June upgrading of the Meru to Dongara line commenced that saw the original Midland Railway through Dongara rerouted and a new station built to enable connection to Eneabba line. The Dongara Eneabba line opened in 1976 with sands trains running to the processing plant at Narngulu there were also trains running to mineral sands plant at Capel that then back loaded with coal for the Narngulu. During the 34 year life of this line it has seen number of different locomotives running the services on this line. In the early years the line was almost exclusively worked by RA locomotives, DA locomotives also ran on the line in 1980s and 1990s together with new P class. In the early to mid 2000s many and varied combinations of locomotives ran on the services but in the last part of the decade it was almost exclusively the preserve of P class. The Dongara Eneabba railway was built as a mineral railway to haul mineral sands there never was and is not now any other traffic on the line. Dongara Eneabba line remembered thanks to Phil Melling who photographed the line over many years.



P2509 on second last mineral sands train to run on Eneabba line approaching dusk in the golden evening light just south of Dongara on August 29th. Both Photos Phil Melling



P2509 on mineral sands train stabled in its usual place at south end of Narngulu yard on August 29th.



P2513 at Walkaway on the empty Eneabba mineral sands train, January 25th.

Both Photos Phil Melling



DA1573 & A1514 on mineral sands at Narngulu March 16th 2004.



A1511 on mineral sands train in Narngulu yard, May 16th 2004.

Both Photos Phil Melling



1907 & 1514 on mineral sands train at Narngulu, March 17th 2004.



2512 entering Narngulu yard with loaded mineral sands train, May 23rd 2010.

Both Photos Jim Bisdee



2512 unloading mineral sands train at the Narngulu plant May 23rd 2010.



DA1576 with mineral sands train, crossing Irwin River bridge at Dongara June 6th 1983. Photo Phil Melling



2512 after unloading mineral sands at Iluka plant runs the empty wagons down south leg of triangle into yard on May 23rd 2010 to stable. Photo Jim Bisdee



P2509 discharging the final mineral sands train at Narngulu plant on August 31st.

Photo Phil Melling

The final Eneabba mineral sands train ran on to the mine on August 30th 2010 returning next morning 31st to discharge its load at Narngulu sands plant. For some 34 years this traffic ran now its over no further mineral sands trains will run on the Eneabba line.
