

West Australian railscene e-Mag

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West Australian Railscene e-Mag is published weekly by Jim Bisdee on rail happenings on West Australian Railroads
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DD2356 & DFZ2405 run a loaded grain on November 1st north of Dongara towards the Port of Geraldton and CBH unloaders in the near continuous cycle of export grain trains. Photo Phil Melling

QR National have issued a contract to Downer EDI Rail in Maryborough Qld for construction of a further 20 GT42CU-AC 2260kw locomotives that will be split between Queensland and WA. This will see 14 of these locomotives come to Western Australia with other 6 remaining in Qld. Following completion of #4131 thru #4140 the construction of these 20 locomotives #4141-#4152, #4168-#4175 will commence with them being delivered up till April 2012 when this contract is anticipated to be completed.

United Group Rail announced on November 1st they have received another contract to supply 6 x C44ACi locomotives to ARG and further 227 WOE iron ore cars. These ore cars and locomotives are to cover increased production by Cliffs at its Koolyanobbing iron ore mines. Construction of the 227 WOE ore cars will commence in February 2011 with delivery of final cars anticipated in late 2011.

First of five BHP Billiton Worsley caustic soda tankers being constructed at Gemco Forrestfield is in the latter stages of assembly still in undercoat yet to be painted.



PA2819 running empty caustic tankers to Bunbury, at Pinjarra East, October 31st.

Photo Murray Rowe



Q4008, Q4012 & Q4006 run 6414 empty iron ore train on the undulating Esperance line into loop at Salmon Gums on October 15th to cross AK cars.

Photo Jim Bisdee

United Group Rail also announced November 1st obtaining a further order from Rio Tinto for 9xES44DCi locomotives to be constructed by General Electric Erie PA in US. These locomotives will have EPC overlay braking capacity being numbered #8154 thru #8162 with delivery anticipated in the Spring of 2011.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore have further 10 SD70ACe locomotives numbered #4374 thru #4383 on order from EMCC of London Ontario Canada whose delivery is anticipated in August/September 2011.



DFZ2404 with its rebuilt, heightened and improved cab & P2517 run empty grain train at Bookara on north of Dongara on October 31st.

Photo Phil Melling

Pacific National yard shunter 8039 was stowed at west end of provisioning site since October 29th with NR115 being turned that morning on Woodbridge triangle to take over as yard shunter. NR115 has been yard shunter also ran P25/P26 wagons of rail to flashbutt on November 1st then picking up the empty rail wagons on November 5th. 8039 departed interstate for repair on 7PX4 behind NR70 November 6th.

Further BHP Billiton Iron Ore SD70ACe have been named over past two months with #4324 being named Tjilla, #4325 being named Jimblebar, #4333 being named Karlkura, #4337 being named Osuma Maru, #4338 being named Pepper, #4340 being named Woodstock and #4344 being named Tenacity.

A mine haul road has been under construction at west end of Binduli triangle for last couple of months from nearby mine that will go beneath the tracks not at a level crossing as did the last mine haul road in the area. On November 3rd the embankment was dug out bridge abutments and spans then moved into place with track restored. Kalgoorlie Perth and Perth Kalgoorlie Prospector services were cancelled as were freight services after 0700 with the line being reopened for passage of Indian Pacific at 2200.



ZB2125 & ZB2120 stabled on empty ballast train at Woodanilling on November 4th. Photo Daryle Phillips



DD2356 & P2517 on empty grain train departs Narngulu yard November 2nd.

Photo Phil Melling

Final EMU unit of the present order set #94 departed EDI Bombardier plant at Maryborough for Maryborough West on November 2nd being hauled to Acacia Ridge arriving on 3rd to be bogie exchanged. It was then transferred to Pacific National being out hauled on 6BW4 steel train to Moorandoo on 5th arriving on 6th where it was detached. EMU set #94 was attached to rear of 7NY3 behind NR118, NR68 and dead attached 2210 for run to Port Augusta arriving on 7th.



NR115 Pacific National Kewdale yard shunter and transfer locomotive runs 2P25 wagons of rail to flashbutt siding Bellevue on November 1st. Photo Jim Bisdee

Extensive track work and re-sleepering was undertaken at Fremantle Station over November 5th through until first train on November 8th. Rail replacement buses ran Showgrounds to Fremantle with rail service running Perth to Showgrounds.