

# 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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NS3355 and FMG909 recently rebuilt SD9043MAC on 056 load test at Tipton Pennsylvania on the NS line from Altoona to Pittsburgh on August 4th. Photo Andy Charlesworth

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John Holland have commenced upgrading the line Narngulu Mullewa line at Eradu and are working east towards Mullewa in a window between 7:00am and 3:00pm. Lang O'Rourke will upgrade the line south from Mullewa to Perenjori with both these lines being laid with dual gauge concrete sleepers that will see the line rise from 16 tonne to 20 tonne axle load initially. This will allow new ACN class GT42CU-AC 2260kw locomotives to operate on these Mid West iron ore trains following completion of this upgrading in 2012.

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The PTA connection between WestNet Eastern Goldfields Railway at Midland through platform #1 and onto the PTA suburban line has been upgraded and improved from late July into first few days of August. New concrete sleepers and ballast were laid on nightshift so it did not to interfere with Prospector or Avonlink workings. MA1862 that had earlier ran up from Claisebrook was stabled at flashbutt yard on August 1st then used to test circuits signal and road crossing flashing light operation in early hours of 2nd.

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Hand laying of the new connection from Forrestfield to BP Kewdale terminal commenced on August 3rd.





FMG909 unpainted 905 ex UP8527 on 056 test at Tipton Pa August 4th.

Photo Andy Charlesworth



AC4302 on 2196 container train entering Fremantle on June 27th.

Photo Brendan Cherry





NS SD80MAC 7210, FMG 905 & 909 on 056 test Tipton Pa August 4th.

Photo Andy Charlesworth



5652 side dump cars 5661 and recovered bad order car at 27.8km dumping fill July 27th. Photo David Flint





B series EMU set #50 at Claisebrook DMU shed having some work done July 27th.



SD40R 3088 hauling ballast train to Mooka on east track July 27th.

Photo David Flint





Tracklaying machine and QUT sleeper train propelling through Wicherina July 30th. Photo Joshua Melling



DAZ1903 on QUT sleeper train and track laying machine at Wicherina on July 31st. Photo Phil Melling





DBZ2306 on empty alumina hoppers at Wellard on June 26th.

Photo Brendan Cherry



AB1504 & AB1502 on ballast train approaching Eradu worksite on July 30th.

Photo Joshua Melling





AB1502 & AB1504 on empty ballast train west of Eradu July 31st.

Photo Phil Melling



DAZ1903 on QUT sleeper train and AB1502 & AB1504 on ballast train at Northern Gully construction depot for Nargulu Mullewa line upgrading project on July 31st.

Photo Phil Melling



NS works at Altoona Pa has completed the conversion of the first two FMG SD90MAC-H with them being rebuilt to SD9043MAC specifications having a 16-710G3 engine. 909 ex UP8554 has been converted and repainted into FMG white and blue livery while 905 ex UP8527 has had the conversion completed but not been repainted. Both these units were run on 056 test on August 4th east of Altoona on the Pittsburgh line between NS SD40-2 3555 and NS SD80MAC 7210 that in full dynamic braking simulated a load for the two FMG locomotives as part of the test. The two FMG SD9043MAC do not have the appropriate cab signalling fitted to be able to run on this line so were flanked by NS locomotives. The three remaining locomotives to be 906, 907 and 908 have had their car bodies stripped to enable their rebuilding as SD9043MAC.



FMG909 & FMG 905 cab to cab on 056 test at Tipton Pa on August 4th.

Photo Andy Charlesworth

Industrial action by RBTU against ARG/QR over failure of EBA negotiations took place at most depots on August 4th with at 24 hour strike resulting in some services being cancelled out of West Kalgoorlie. Some services still operated with supervisors or non union members. The strike action at Esperance commenced at 2359hours on 4th effectively making the Esperance line subject to a 48 hour strike. Again a number of services still ran with managers/ supervisors or non union staff.

XRB562 arrived on 2MP5 between NR41 & NR98 at Kewdale on August 4th for crew training as these remote only units have not seen use on east west services for a few years.

B series EMU set #50 was at DMU shed Claisebrook having some interior work undertaken on the car from July 25th to 28th. EMU set #01 has had the special City of Perth interior styling removed and replaced with the latest interior styling in early August.

Construction of the next six C44ACi locomotives for ARG/QR has commenced at UGR Chullora in NSW.





NR41, XRB562 & NR98 on 2MP5 rounding curve to enter Kalgoorlie on August 3rd. Photo Peter Donaghy



LZ3107 & L3111 rail train and empty tankers on 5443 freight at Binduli July 27th. Photo Peter Donaghy





DFZ2402 & P2511 on loaded ore train descends the grade at Bringo on July 30th running past lush green paddocks following the heavy rainfall received in this more normal wet July winter. Photo Phil Melling

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DC2205 under heavy maintenance at Forrestfield workshop has been repainted into QRN livery August 4th.

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The Premier Mr Barnett caught an evening train from Perth to Maddington on August 1st and chatted with train travellers on safety and lighting issues. Mr Barnett also visited Oats Street and Burswood stations where there have been issues with recent attacks on train patrons.

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Extended crossing loop at Lefroy that has new self restoring points and indicator opened in late July.

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DPU trains on Esperance ore haulage has again been suspended due to the state of current EBA negotiations and also owing to ongoing problems and unreliability with this technology that have resulted in delays and cancellations from its problems.

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