

# West Australian railscene e-Mag

Issue number 154      September 12th 2011      free electronic railway magazine

West Australian Railscene e-Mag is published weekly by Jim Bisdee on rail happenings on West Australian railroads

[WWW.WESTERNRAILS.COM](http://WWW.WESTERNRAILS.COM)      follow West Australian Railscene e-Mag on facebook      Copyright Jim Bisdee © 2011



ACB4402, 4901 & ACB4401 run D178 light engine works trial from Penrith to Chullora through Rookwood NSW on September 9th following earlier D177 run Chullora to Penrith.      Photo Chris Walters

Transport Minister Mr Buswell recently announced that the three year \$105million upgrading by local shire councils of rural roads had not progressed to a level that would “satisfactorily service” the upcoming 2011-12 grain harvest. The roads that would carry the grain displaced by Tier 3 wheatbelt lines that in June went on to care and maintenance will not be ready for the forthcoming harvest. The government is investigating extending the operational life of York Quairading, West Merredin Trayning and Bruce Rock through to Yilliminning lines with rail infrastructure operator Brookfield Rail that has been asked if it can undertake the works to get the lines ready. This extension of these lines would only be for the 2011/12 grain harvest with accelerating funding for the road upgrading programme expected to enable its completion by April 2012 with the roads then being able to carry the 2012/13 harvest. The government has continually stated it can see no compelling case to upgrade and continue operation of the Tier 3 rail lines and they will all gradually close in line with recommendations of Strategic Grain Network Committee. Farmer and rural organisations continue to lobby for the Tier 3 lines retention and upgrading.





LZ3109 & LZ3114 on 6443 Esperance freight at West Kalgoorlie September 2nd. Photo Peter Donaghy



Karara line looking east from the Fallon Road crossing Koolanooka on September 7th. Photo Matt Hooper





Karara line looking west from Fallon Road crossing Koolanooka on September 7th. Photo Matt Hooper



Track bed of Armadale Mundijong line at Byford with sleeper laying on September 8th. Photo Jim Bisdee





Sleeper placing machine picking eight sleepers to be placed on track bed at Byford on September 8th.



Sleepers being placed on the track bed at Byford on September 8th.

Both Photos Jim Bisdee



D1562 still retains its original number and is the last ex Westrail QRN locomotive yet to be renumbered.

---

Two former Overland cars BJ1 and Club Car3 recently purchased from GSR by GWA for conversion into crew cars were hauled to Forrestfield by SCT on MP9 September 1st for delivery to Gemco Forrestfield for conversion and rebuilding.

---



6006 & 6001 on 6MP1 haul dead 6005 on its delivery run to QRN WA for use on iron ore train service approaching Kalgoorlie on September 3rd. Photo Peter Donaghy

---

6005 arrived on 6MP1 on September 4th joining 6010 and 6002 for use on QRNs WA operations.

---

AC4401 through AC4403 have been classified ACB but will retain the same numbers now being ACB4401 through ACB4406 when they are all delivered.

---

ACB4401, 4901 & ACB4402 ran D177 light engine builders trial on September 9th in NSW from UGL Chullora workshop to Penrith returning as D178 light engine Penrith to Chullora. This is the first mainline trial of new ACB class six of which were ordered by ARG from UGL Rail that will now be accepted by QRN for use in WA. These locomotives are a refined version of the 2009 built AC class with further enhancements more akin to recent XStrata XCN class.

---

ACN4149 and ACN4151 passed through Port Augusta on September 6th arriving in Meckering during afternoon of 9th to overnight then arrived in Forrestfield about 9:00am on the 10th.

---

DC2208 is now workshops shunter as DC2213 is being upgraded and modified for mainline operation when completed DC2208 will be upgraded. 2201, 2203, 42209, 42211 and 3102 are stored out of use.





NR18 working its first eastbound Indian Pacific 1PA8 at Midland on September 4th.

Photo Jim Bisdee



NR18 long end leading on 7003 empty cars to Kewdale at Guildford on September 3rd.

Photo Jim Bisdee





Track machines TM500 & TM723 work on new bypass line at Kewdale September 1st. Photo Jim Bisdee



P2515 on ballast train on newly re-railed and re-sleepered line at Ambania August 19th. Photo Phil Melling





Australind car ADP103 and EMU set#40 running ATP trials on Armadale line at Queens Park August 30th.



EMU set #04 hauled by ADP103 at Cannington on ATP trials September 1st.

Both photos Jim Bisdee



P2504 & P2517 ran 3305 empty grain to Wagin on August 30th to stable ran as 1305 empty to Cranbrook with 36 XT grain wagons to load on September 5th. The locos then ran light engine to Albany for trip service and refuelling. P2504 was attached to woodchip train with 2512 being detached and ran light engine with 2517 to Cranbrook on 6th to work 2306 out of zone grain to MGC Forrestfield. P2501 & P2504 are running the woodchip train with P2504 on Albany end and P2501 on mill end.



DBZ2308, P2504 & P2514 on 1305 entering CBH terminal Albany August 29th.

Photo Stew Winston

EBA disputes continue on QRN WA operations with Esperance being on strike September 1st and 2nd as well as other QRN depots throughout the state. Kalgoorlie depot struck on August 29th but was outside Fair Work Australia protected action parameters with FWA ordering Kalgoorlie depot workers to resume work. It appears the parties are poles apart with no early settlement of this dispute in sight and strike action expected to continue. The on again of again DPU workings are again suspended as part of this industrial action.

Loop extension work continues on Esperance line with northern loop extension at Cowan being completed, self restoring points southern end of Daniel loop have been cut in but northern extension is yet to be cut in.

Loco transfer to Esperance saw Q4012 leading LZ3114 on 3443 Kalgoorlie to Esperance freighter on September 6th.

END page nine of nine